MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER.

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MOORE'S RURAL NEW-YORKER,
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CONDUCTED BY D. D. T. MOORE,
With an Able Corps of Assistants and Contributors.

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AGRICULTURAL.

IS COTTON KING?

It may be a matter of interest to agricultural readers just now, to look at the possible bearing of any disturbances in the South which may interfere with the usual supply of cotton. As it is claimed that "Cotton is King," we ought to know its [illegible] and [illegible] claims (if it have any,) to bear its name and sway. Of the importance and value of cotton as a textile fabric, there can be no doubt. But it should be borne in mind that fibrous plants are very numerous, and that the Almighty has not shut us up to one source, important as it may be for our supply of vegetable fibre for clothing. There are probably fifty different species of plants which yield vegetable fibre in such a form as to be useful in some degree, and under favorable circumstances, for the manufacture of cordage, paper, and cloth. In addition to this, we have the wool and hair of different animals, either domestic or capable of being domesticated. We have the various varieties of the silk worm, some of which, like that lately introduced into France from the East, can be cheaply fed and reared, and made to produce a coarse fabric suitable in point of cheapness for common wear. It may be said that none of these have been proved equal in cheapness and excellence to the cotton. But it may be answered that no man can predict the effect of the application of scientific and inventive intellect to the general subject of textile fibres under the impulse of necessity. The inventions of Hargreaves and Arkwright in England, and of Whitney in this country, actually created the cotton culture in the South, and the cotton manufacture in England. It is unsafe for politicians or economists to presume on peculiar advantages which the Creator has given to any one country or climate. There is a law of compensation which presides over all God's blessings. It may be doubted whether cotton is a "King" at all, and with still better reason may it be doubted whether the cotton of the Gulf States of North America is "King."

Let us look at this matter a few moments. Cotton grows freely in almost all the warm countries of the globe. In almost all these countries it may be supplied to an indefinite extent. The limitation upon its production is either the lack of civilization, and a government which can protect regular labor, as in Africa; or in the means of transporting it to market, as in India. It is well known that half a century ago India was the great cotton growing and manufacturing country of the world. Our older readers can remember when "India Cottons" were common in our own country. What has changed all this, and enabled Old and New England to carry cotton fabrics to India? It is not that India has ceased to raise cotton, or weave it, for a hundred millions of people are clothed with cotton of their own raising. It is simply because English and American talent has applied machinery to clean, and spin, and weave the cotton, so that by these means they are able to enter into a successful competition even with the marvelously cheap labor of the rice-eating natives of India and China. In this way England, herself, has thrown her fabrics made of American cotton into India, and by reducing the demand of raw cotton there, has reduced the amount grown. Raw cotton is easier obtained from America than from India, for want of the means of transportation over the immense distances between the cotton fields and the Indian sea ports. The quality of the American article is better, but this depends, in a great measure, on the skill of the cultivator. The railroad system of the English in India is now about coming into activity, and this will enable the natives to reach a market with all the cotton they may have a demand for. It may be safely said that in five years' time India may be made to supply a very large part, if not the whole of the English demand for raw cotton.

Our readers are aware of the issue of the late Chinese war. The capital of England and France can now avail itself of the teeming millions of China with their rich lands and cheap labor for the supply of cotton. The Chinese are a migratory people,—they will go anywhere, or do any kind of work, for money. They are the Yankees of the East. The English can establish Chinese colonies in Australia and introduce the cultivation of cotton there to any extent. We know that our cousins over the water are very philanthropic, but they are not scrupulous when their own power or safety is put in jeopardy. All the islands of the Pacific may be thus made to yield the coveted staple. So can Egypt and Turkey, Sicily and Algeria, Jamaica, British Guiana, Central America and Brazil, and English capital and skill are present in all those countries. The exploration and civilization of Africa has for many years been a favorite subject with the English people and Government. Africa furnishes the finest cotton lands on the globe. Love of money is everywhere the great civilizing force. When the petty tyrants of Africa find that a man is worth more to plant cotton and hoe cotton than to sell to the coast slave dealers, the trade in cotton will supersede the trade in men. If they continue to make raids for captives, these petty kings will be more likely to send them into the cotton field than to the slave ship.

The recent letter in the *Evening Post* from Hon. E. G. Squier, shows that nothing is needed but a stable government to make Central America one of the most profitable cotton regions in the world. England is an adept at protectorates, and we are not exactly in the condition to enforce the Monroe doctrine for the benefit of the Southern Secessionists.

It should be remarked that in this effort to open new fields of supply for cotton, France and England have a common interest, and will work together. Lord John Russell has just put all the Consuls of the British Government at the service of the Manchester Cotton Supply Association, and thus we find that private capital and self-interest are re-inforced by government in the great work of seeking new fields of supply for the mills of Great Britain. The secession movement and its possible consequences have set all this powerful machinery into the intensest activity. For years this Association has been making explorations, but apparently with no great vigor. Now all these considerations of danger and self-interest are increased in force by the general dislike of the slave system of the South. Such machinery, with so much capital, with so much weight of motive drawn from morality and self-interest combined, can hardly fail to be effective.

The manufacturing districts of the Northern States are alike interested with England to ascertain the extent to which their laboring population are liable to suffer from a stoppage or diminution of the supply of cotton. It is true that there seems at present to be little danger from this source. As cotton is the main dependence of the seceding States, and as their taxation will be enormously increased by their late action, they must raise cotton in order to raise money,—to raise money from their cotton it must be sold. It will be sold to those who have money to buy it. If the Southern ports are blockaded, the cotton can be sent by railroads overland nearly as cheap as it can be shipped by sea. If war or insurrection stop the cotton supply from the South, we shall have open to us through the command of the sea all those new sources of supply which the activity of the English and French shall lay open.

But though we see no reason to fear a deficiency of raw cotton for our mills, we have another kind of fibre upon which we can fall back, and this can be raised in all the Northern States, and to any extent. It is known that flax can be prepared for spinning by jennies in the manner of cotton. Several mills for its manufacture have been started in our country. But so little pains have been taken by farmers who raise flax (mainly for the seed,) to prepare the fibre and get it to market, that for all the finer fabrics the manufacturers were obliged to import from Europe, mainly from Russia. Upon this there was a duty equal to that laid on imported linen, so that they got no protection. Their success, so far as quality is concerned, was complete. But the active competition of foreigners in the substantial absence of all protection, finally induced them to abandon the manufacture of the finer class of goods. The coarser fabrics are still made at a profit, and, without doubt, when attention is given to the preparation of flax, so that the home supply will be equal to any demand made upon it, the same might be true of the more delicate fabrics. A recent letter to the writer from a distinguished manufacturer, whose means of information have been unusually good, says that there is so much flax raised, for the seed alone, in the single State of Ohio, that if the quality of the article was properly attended to, and the fibre well broken and cleaned, it would serve, in addition to the seed, to supply the entire Union with linens. Beyond all question the Northern States are able at any time to raise sufficient flax to replace the whole amount of cotton now spun without any serious addition of cost to the consumer. It was recently stated in Boston that flax could be purchased in Ohio, carried to Roxbury, cottonized, and delivered at the place where it was grown for fifteen cents per pound.

The process of separating the ultimate fibres of the flax from each other, and preparing them for spinning with the same ease as cotton or wool, is now well understood and easy. The old idea that flax is of necessity an exhausting crop, is now controverted on good authority. With the enormous capacity of our western prairies for production, and the facilities now existing for preparing the fibre for use, it is evident that a very slight advance in the price of cotton would stimulate the culture of flax so far as to meet all the necessities now supplied by cotton. It is by no means certain that free labor and scientific skill might not enable flax, or some other fibrous plant, to change places with the regal plant of the tropics. One thing is certain. We need have no fear in regard to an immediate supply of our spindles and looms should war or insurrection diminish or destroy the crop of cotton in our Southern States. We can even do much toward furnishing fibre for our English neighbors in the improbable event that their new sources of cotton supply should be insufficient. We are thus able to assure our Southern friends that in any event we shall not be in danger of suffering for shirts, bedding, or calicoes. We are, on the whole, disposed to think that cotton is not "king" either *de jure* or *de facto*. We will suggest to the cotton planter that fashions in trade are apt to become a rage. The embargo destroyed the timber trade between the United States and Great Britain,—It did the same work for the trade in beef and pork. Before the Revolution in Hayti, that island was the great source of supply for coffee. But that being, in a great measure, cut off by the insurrection, Brazil, under the impulse of foreign capital, took up the culture of coffee and now is ready to supply the world.

We venture to predict that the present secession movement will, by opening new sources of supply for cotton, effectually take away from the Southern States the control of the cotton market, and leave them where Hayti is in relation to Brazil in the culture of coffee, and where Louisiana stands relatively to Cuba in the growth of sugar. The bold assumption that the cotton of the Gulf States is "King," and that this secures the success of the Southern Confederacy, will be sure, in the end, to compel the cotton growers of the South to take the humble place of unequal competitors with a dozen other sources of supply, of whose existence they now hardly dream.

In case matters look stormy in the spring, it may be well for our farming friends to recollect that we may need an extra amount of flax to keep our spindles going, while the seed, as a staple article, will always meet a ready cash sale. Meanwhile we invite those who have had experience in flax raising to give us, in definite form, the results of their labors. The subject has received some notice in previous volumes of the Rural, but the present condition of affairs in our country now renders such a discussion peculiarly appropriate.

BRUCE'S YORKSHIRE PIG,

WINNER OF THE FIRST PRIZE AT THE WINTER MEETING OF THE ROYAL DUBLIN AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

While the improved breeds of cattle have excited almost universal attention, and have formed one of the most important features in our Annual State Fairs; while the contest between the friends of long and short wooled, and South-Down Sheep has been both interesting and exciting; and while many have exhibited undue interest in fancy breeds of fowls, the pig for many years has been almost forgotten. Knowing this fact, the managers of our Fairs have provided few pens for this family of domestic animals, and but a small portion of those provided have been occupied. That all breeds are alike profitable to the feeder, or that the subject is unworthy the serious attention of farmers, we cannot believe.

We present our readers with a portrait of one of the finest hogs we have seen for a long time. She was exhibited at the Winter Fat Cattle Show of the Royal Dublin Society, and obtained the first prize in the class of "single pigs, large breed, of any age," and is an enormous white Yorkshire pig, of great depth and thickness. She was bred and is now owned by Mr. Bruce, of Milltown Castle, Ireland, and is nearly two years old. Mr. B. had previously obtained with this animal four first class prizes, and we present her as a perfect model of a large pig. The engraving we copy from the *Irish Farmers' Gazette*.

There is a great prejudice in England against large pigs, and the old *Yorkshire* has been modified in size as well as improved in form. While in this country, packers pay the highest price for large hogs, in England a pig weighing from six to eight score, or from 120 to 160 pounds, will bring more in market than one of greater weight. The *Yorkshire* pig is one of the oldest as well as one of the largest breeds, but until improved by modern breeders it was extremely long-legged and weak-loined; very long from head to tail, color chiefly white, with long coarse curly hair, and yielding a coarse flabby flesh. The *Improved Yorkshire*, sometimes called *Lincolnshire*, however, "is well-formed throughout, its head of fair length, with pleasant, mild, docile countenance; ears drooping, but not too large; back broad, and very slightly curved, with wide well-set rump, chine and loin broad; ribs springing; deep sides and full chest; color white; hair long, and thinly set. It is a fine specimen of the pig; grows very fast, feeds rapidly, and will readily, under good management, attain to from 275 to 350 pounds in twelve months from birth, and the quality of pork is remarkably good, having a good proportion of fine lean flesh." This change was effected by the Lincolnshire breeders, but those of Yorkshire have improved the form, and at the same time preserved the size of this old breed. J. A. Clarke, in the *Cyclopedia of Agriculture*, says, "the specimens lately exhibited of the large Yorkshire breed have attained a size too large for any useful purpose, and would exceed in weight that of a moderately grown Scotch ox. The present taste of the public is decidedly set against such an overgrown sort; at present, however, they make large prices." Here we have no such prejudices against large pork for packing.

FINE WOOL SHEEP—HIGH FEEDING.

Mr. Rural:—I notice the remarks of S. H., of Conesus, in your issue of Jan. 26th, on raising fine wool. His fleeces of fine wool, weighing on the average 4 lbs., are very respectable. If every farmer would raise 4 lb. fleeces, there would be little use for advocating a higher system of feeding; but Mr. S. H. must be aware that his is rather an exception and not a rule. It may do very well as far as the wool is concerned, but generally those that have wool to sell have mutton sheep also to sell, and I maintain that from 60 to 70 cents expended daily for either corn or buckwheat at present prices, to his 100 sheep, over and above what he now feeds them, would, in my views of feeding, pay a good profit. In the first place it would enable him to sell his mutton sheep immediately after they are shorn, when mutton generally brings a much higher price than late in the season; besides his lambs, owing to richer milk from their mothers, would be both larger and fatter, and he would ultimately have much larger sheep. Nothing prevents Merino sheep from being one-third heavier when they are fat for the butcher-market, but the poverty-stricken way they are kept in their youth. I have often had yearling Merinos weigh 126 lbs. gross, when sold, and that is a fair weight for much larger breeds.

S. H. says 5 lb. fleeces wont bring so much per pound by 10 cents as those weighing only 4 lbs.—that is if the buyer and seller are honest. No such deductions were ever made on any five pound fleeces, nor 6 lb. ones either, that I have sold. I shall boast nothing about honesty; but I wonder if any one would believe that S. H., if offered 50 cents per pound for 5 lb. fleeces, would tell the buyer, "No, I am too honest to take that; those fleeces weigh 5 lbs. each, and are not worth over 40 cents. You can have them for that."

There is, in my opinion, a great gain in high feeding, every way. The high feeder can have his yearling wethers ready for market and get as high a price as many a farmer gets when two years older, and that allows him to keep more breeding ewes; therefore he can turn off his increase either in lambs or yearlings. Often good fat lambs will bring as much in market as many three year old Merino wethers, or even more. I was raised amongst sheep, have had care of them all my life, and I am more and more convinced that the better they are kept, the better they pay. Breeding ewes should not be kept too fat, else there is often serious losses at yeaning. Neither should the young ewes intended for breeders be kept too fat; but all the wethers and old ewes kept from breeding cannot be made too fat. Any man may see at once that if lambs can be sold to the butcher for $2,50 to $3, it is folly to keep them poorly and sell them for $2,50 to $3 at 3½ years old, which is generally the price of the common run of Merino wethers at 3 to 3½ years old. Even if they get $2 per fleece for keeping them, at the price of hay here, that would never pay. A sheep, if fed as much good hay as he will eat, will consume 800 pounds during the feeding season, and that consumes the fleece or the 4 pounds at 50 cents, which would be pasture and expenses lost. No, sir, sheep kept in that way will not pay here. We must keep them on straw and grain till March, if not longer, and then feed good hay as the weather gets warmer. In that way we winter them both cheaper and better, and then we have a large part of our meadows for other purposes. When hay is worth from $8 to $10 per ton at the barn, it wont pay to feed to sheep when wool is 40 to 50 cents per pound, unless grain is fed along with it, heavy fleeces raised, the lambs got to market or kept until yearlings, made fat and got to market immediately on being shorn, or before if practicable. But enough about sheep at present.
John Johnston.

Near Geneva, N. Y., 1861.

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PRACTICAL SERMONS ON SHORT TEXTS.

DEEPENING THE SOIL.

"Soils should be plowed as deep as the substratum will admit of its being done by the force of one ordinary team, at least once in a course of crops."—Judge Buel.

In this country it will be found a general rule, that the plow seldom penetrates more than four or five inches into the soil, and in most cases the soil is plowed to the same depth for every crop that is grown upon it, thus exposing only two surfaces, as it were, to atmospheric action. This may, and did, answer very well when the soil was newly cleared, as the superincumbent forest contained a large amount of fertilizing matter near the surface; but this matter having been used up, the continuation of this system of plowing has resulted in worn-out lands, with a concrete hard-pan intervening between the cultivated and the uncultivated soil, preventing the roots of ordinary crops from entering the sub-soil in search of food, and also in a great measure obstructing the drainage of surface water, and the ascent of moisture by capillary attraction.

It would be well if our farmers would pay more attention to this important matter. In carrying out a system of rotation of crops, I would here strongly recommend the soil to be turned up in the first course to the depth of four inches, and to be deepened one or two inches at each successive crop till the seeding to grass, when it would be twelve or fourteen inches deep. On the commencement of each rotation after grass, begin again at five inches. In this way a new stratum of soil would be turned up each

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year, to receive the ameliorating influence of the atmosphere, and also allow such manure as is applied to become thoroughly incorporated with the soil.

In deepening the soil it will be found most advantageous to have the operation performed in autumn, that the new soil turned up may be ameliorated by the frost before growing a crop upon it.

Of course, this system is not intended to take the place of sub-soiling, as understood in England; but even where the sub-soil plow is used, it will be found advantageous to vary the depth of the after plowing to suit each individual crop. J. M.

Hamilton, C. W., 1861

SUGAR FROM SORGHUM—HOW MADE.

Eds. Rural New-Yorker.—Since the publication of my article on Sorghum in your issue of Dec. 1st, I have received a host of letters,—all from "Rural Readers,"—inquiring how I made Sugar. These letters testify that the Rural is read from New Jersey to the extreme limit of Western Kansas, and also proclaim that Sorghum is not dead east of the Mississippi, the exulting assertion of your would-be prophet correspondent in the Rural of Nov., 1860, to the contrary, notwithstanding. The following are among the questions proposed: What did your Evaporator cost? What is its size and weight? How much sirup or sugar will it make in a day? What will an acre of cane produce of molasses, or sugar? When is the best time to plant the cane, and how do you cultivate it? Is the Imphee better than Sorghum? &c.

I answer, *First*—My Evaporator cost sixty-five dollars at Laporte, Ind., and fifteen dollars freight. It is six feet in diameter,—the rim six inches high,—the bottom flat, one-half inch thick, and weighs one thousand pounds. It is a circular, cast-iron pan, with a division through the center,—making two semi-circular pans, each holding fifty gallons. It is supported on an iron post in the center of the straight wall of the brick furnace,—the size and shape of one of the semi-circular pans,—the whole rotating horizontally, so that only one pan at a time is over the furnace, or fire. For a fuller description address A. H. Miller, Laporte, Ind., and get a circular free, which will fully explain the invention.

Second—This Evaporator reduces 50 gallons of juice into molasses per hour,—or 600 gallons per day,—making from 12 to 16 gallons of molasses per hour—depending on the ripeness and purity of the cane. My best yield was 5 gallons of molasses from 20 of juice,—the worst was 6 from 40 of juice. Ripe cane gives a larger yield of sirup than green,—and black seed cane more and better than partly red seed,—which is a mixture of broom corn.

Third—An acre of cane will produce from 100 to 320 gallons of molasses,—this is my own estimate, from four years' experience in cultivating sorghum. A good average yield to me is 200 gallons per acre, and one gallon of sirup yields ten pounds of dry sugar.

Fourth—The best time to plant the cane is when you would plant corn,—the earlier the better, to ensure perfection. My cane I planted last season on the 2d day of May, but on account of the drouth it did not come up until the 16th of June. It ripened by the 1st of October. I am certain it will ripen as early as corn, and will grow where corn will grow.

I obtained my first seed from the Patent Office in the spring of 1856—and have followed the directions given by the Patent Office ever since,—which is to plant 8 or 10 seed in a hill, 3½ feet apart each way. When the cane is large enough to cultivate I thin out to 4 stalks in a hill, then tend the cane like corn. It is important to sucker the cane once during the season, at least, in order to obtain large, heavy stalks.

Fifth—I made sugar simply by boiling the juice down thicker than for molasses and setting it away to grain. The entire process is easy, certain, and may be briefly described. I filled one of the semi-circular pans with juice, turning it over the furnace and fire—got to boiling as soon and as fast as possible. An intense and uniform heat while boiling is absolutely essential to disengage the glucose, which, if not burned out, will prevent the sirup from graining,—here is the secret—when the green scum rises to the surface I skim it off with a wire cloth skimmer,—which comes with and belongs to the Evaporator,—and bye-and-bye numerous black flakes, resembling the iron scales on and around a blacksmith's anvil, will boil up to the surface. This is the disengaged glucose, and I skim it off also. When the sirup is thick enough for molasses, I use an iron rake stirer along the bottom of the pan to prevent scorching, as that would prevent our getting sugar. When the mass is thick enough to string in water, I turn it off the fire and bring the other pan on containg fresh juice—which endures the same fate as its predecessor. I now draw the sugar sirup out of the pan through a faucet in the rim, and place it in buckets or tubs to cool, after which I pour it into an empty flour or sugar barrel with small gimlet holes in the bottom, and place this over a molasses barrel to drain. Sometimes the graining process begins in two hours after it is off the fire, and sometimes not until after two days or more. If the temperature of the room is warm and nearly uniform, the sugar will be drained dry in ten or twelve days.

The foregoing is the result of my own experiments, and I hold myself responsible to the public for the proof of the statements I have made. A new impetus has been given to the cultivation of Sorghum, and the invention of the Evaporator mentioned, is to us what Whitney's cotton gin was to the Cotton States half a century ago. We, in this county, know we can and will retain at home thirty thousand dollars which annually is paid out and lost to us for sugar and molasses.

In conclusion, I would say to farmers,—east and west of the Mississippi,—plant Sorghum, and not a garden patch, but five or ten acres,—get a good mill and an Evaporator like mine, and if you are not satisfied with the result by this time next year, you may sentence me through the tribunal of the Rural New-Yorker. In a good cause "I ask no favors and shrink from no responsibilities." J. Williams.

Kingston, Mo., 1861.

FARMING AND CROPS IN IOWA.

Eds. Rural New-Yorker:—Perhaps some of the readers of the Rural will be glad to hear a word from Iowa, concerning the crops and other agricultural matters. The crops last season were excellent,—never better. The wheat raised here is generally spring wheat, as fall wheat usually winter kills, so the former is preferred, because deemed more certain, although the latter is much better liked for flour. Our yield in this vicinity has not been more than twenty bushels to the acre. *We* raised a fair crop, and the average yield was only eighteen bushels. Our prospects for a crop last June were rather gloomy, for the drouth was very severe at that time; but to our great joy we had, "*just in the nick of time,*" a fine, refreshing rain, which gave new life to our withering crops, and fresh vigor to the farmer.

Our corn crop averaged about seventy bushels to the acre, excluding those farmers who plant their corn about the middle of June, drop from six to eight grains in each hill, plant even without first plowing the land, and after planting, perhaps run the cultivator through once, and then leave *Nature* to do the rest. The result of this kind of farming is a crop of weeds instead of a crop of corn, and the ruin of the land for another crop. I am sorry to say we have too many such farmers in the West. Corn land should be plowed well, about eight or ten inches deep, early in the fall, and if possible before the weeds get ripe, (we have too many weeds in our crops, even when doing the best we can to prevent them,) then harrowed well in the spring, and it is ready to be "*furrowed out*" into rows four feet apart, which, being crossed, is ready to be planted. No more than four grains should be planted in each hill. Corn should be plowed three or four times, from the date when it is large enough until it begins to tassle, and more if the land is weedy. The practice of hoeing corn I consider useless, as the plow throws up enough of ground to the corn. The corn crop is the surest in Iowa, and undoubtedly pays the best.

Considerable attention is being paid to the raising of Sorghum. Farmers say that it makes a superior article of molasses. If the raising of Sorghum continues to progress, Iowa will soon be able to furnish herself with molasses, independent of disunionists.

Manuring is much neglected here. *Some think* that to manure land is useless, especially the rich, black soil of Iowa; consequently they burn their straw, instead of keeping it to make manure. Without manure on some of our old farms in the East, farming would soon prove a bad business, and manure on our rich land does really invigorate the soil, giving the farmer encouragement when the crop is ripe, and his hard labor thus rewarded.

I wish to know the dimensions of a ton of hay, or how many cubic feet does it contain in a stack of solid hay? Wm. Baxter.

Iowa City, Iowa, 1861.

FOREST SCREENS AND BORDERS.

Eds. Rural New-Yorker:—H. T. B. has conferred a public benefit by his article upon "The Forests." The subject of planting has often been a matter of serious thought with me. That this is not owing to any uncommon cleverness, will be readily seen when I report that "our house" stands on a hill, where bleak winds rake it "fore and aft," and from all points of the compass; while as often as the west winds rise, the tempest holds a regular carnival. Thus am I often reminded of the greatest need of our country houses,—protection against chilling winds and wintry blasts,—screens and borders for utility and beauty.

It is doubtful, however, whether any sharp reproof we might apply to those who have gone before us, would serve in anywise to mitigate our troubles, or make them more endurable. Why should we complain, since, very probably, we should do the same thing under like circumstances. They doubtless erred, and lost much, both to themselves and us, by not leaving some of the young growth for borders, and a far wider extent of forest; so that the cleared land should be still effectually protected from storms, and the highway oftener embowered in wood, with shade to refresh the traveler and his tired beast. Such types of the primal forests would be prizes worth something, and should long remain as mementoes of the care and wisdom of the Creator, because He has thus adorned and defended the earth as a heritage for man, who, if he would pursue the same course, and work in harmony with nature's God, would show that amid present cares he had a kindly thought of the future tenants of these farms. Still, if our fathers thought best to cut down the forests, or seemed not to *think* much about it, let us not be too fast to condemn. Those old forest trees were not quite the thing to constitute the borders needed, after all, though such borders might have been long since established, (as indeed they have been to some extent,) had any one set himself about it, and found means to do it.

I well remember an incident in my early years, bearing upon this subject. There was a piece of ten acres or more cleared, about our log house, having on it here and there a tree left standing. This space was surrounded by forest. One day in mid-winter a heavy gale swept over us. The forest stood firm, but when the gale reached the open space, one after another of the tall forest monarchs, left to withstand alone, yielded to the force of the blast, until the most of them lay prostrate, leaving but poor encouragement to the advocate of any discriminating or partial treatment of *the trees.*

Sometimes, doubtless, money ruled the hour, but oftener the wants of a numerous family demanded, or seemed to demand, an increased area of cultivable land; and in this connection, we may well remember the grant to the Israelites to cut down the timber, and make a wall against any city that was to be subdued. If, now, we begin to bestir ourselves in the same spirit that actuated our fathers, and if we apply all our skill and labor in selection and careful and judicious arrangement and culture, which they did in cutting down, we shall do more in the next twenty-five years towards making ours the beautiful land it is capable of being made, than by one hundred years of railing at others for what they have done, or failed to accomplish. And, perhaps, our children will one day rise up and call us blessed, rejoicing that they had fathers and grand-fathers, "not overmuch wise." S. Luther.

Oneida Co., N. Y., 1861.

PROFIT OF KEEPING HENS, &c.

Eds. Rural New-Yorker:—Noticing in a late number of your paper an article respecting hens, and the profits from keeping them, I will cheerfully add my testimony in their favor. I kept, the past year, twenty hens,—raised two broods of chickens,—had from six to eight in the family, and received thirty-three dollars and fifty cents for eggs. The prices per dozen through the year were from fourteen to twenty-two cents. The average price would probably not vary much from seventeen cents per dozen. I did not take account of whole number of eggs gathered, only what were sold.

The hens were fed through the year each morning with scalded cob-meal, to which was added, and well mixed, little scraps of boiled meat, given hot,—during afternoon shelled corn or oats,—plenty of pure water.

I think we keep nothing on the farm here that with proper care brings so much net profit as hens. The gain depends upon the constant and daily care.

The practice of rudely throwing the setting hens from the nests night after night,—of ducking them in water, or tying red strips of cloth to their feathers, is all wrong. The hen should be taken gently from the nest, when beginning to set,—placed in a suitable coop on the ground, under cover,—well fed and watered, and in two or three days, at most, let out.

Hens one or two years old are most profitable. The hen-house must be kept clean,—whitewashed two or three times during summer. I make, yearly, by throwing in muck and loam, from time to time, from four to six horse-cart loads of superior manure, which I have found most valuable for starting corn in the spring. I place one or two handfuls in the furrow,—brush over a little dirt with the foot—drop corn on top, and cover with broad hill. C. W. Turner.

Rural Spirit of the Press.

Horses' Feet Balling with Snow.

A correspondent of the *Spirit of the Times* asks how to prevent snow balling in a horse's foot—and the editor responds:—Soft soap made with wood ashes is, in Canada West, invariably rubbed on the soles of horses' feet, which causes them immediately to cast the snow therefrom. Let this be done just preparatory to sleighing. Each time that the horses may be shodded during a day's sleigh-ride, it will be necessary to renew the application of the soft soap, as their standing on warm stable compost does away with its efficacy.

Testing Seed Corn.

A correspondent of the *Nebraska Farmer*, after describing his method of selecting seed corn in the field in autumn, and keeping it in a moderately warm dry place in winter, says that in the spring he tests it as follows:—"He rolls or wraps each ear in paper; twists the little end, and shears off the paper at the big end down even with the ear. He then draws out the ear carefully and shells it. If the shelled corn of any ear does not fill the paper, it is *rejected.* In this way he sorts out the heavy kerneled and small cob grades, and is improving his crop."

To Relieve Choking Cattle.

One who is familiar with cattle gives the following directions for relieving them from choking:—"Put one arm over the neck, so as to have one hand on each side, find the substance that the animal is choked with, then place your thumb below it on each side, and shove it gently up into the mouth. I have relieved a great many choked cattle for myself and neighbors, and never found a case but I succeeded in. One case I had where the animal would not take it into the mouth when it was shoved up; in that case we put a ring into the mouth, and another person easily took out the offending substance while I hold it up to the swallow."

Salt for Swine.

A correspondent of the *Annalen der Landwirthschaft* states some interesting experiments to test the use of salt in fattening swine. He selected two pairs of barrow hogs weighing 200 pounds apiece. One pair received with their daily allowance of food two ounces of salt; the other pair, similarly fed, none. In the course of a week it was easily seen that the salted pair had a much stronger appetite than the others, and after a fortnight the salt was increased to two ounces apiece. After four months the weight of the salted hogs was 350 pounds apiece, while that of the unsalted, five weeks later, reached only 300 pounds. This experiment was repeated with almost precisely the same results. The author feeds young pigs, according to their age, a quarter to one ounce daily, breeding sows very little during pregnancy, and during the heat of summer withholds it in a great degree from all, as it induces thirst and liability to disease.

A Leak in the Stable.

A writer in the *American Agriculturist*, while treating this topic, discourseth thus:—"Not a leak in the roof, though that would be bad, but in the floor, which is worse, and many leaks, too, leaks between every plank! Why should this be allowed? Why not make the floor tight as possible, and have one gutter near the heels of the stock, to carry off the urine into a tank below, or in a heap of muck or other absorbent? Or, in place of this arrangement, have the floors well covered with litter, of straw, peat, tanbark, sawdust, plaster, or any dry absorbent material. Any body can see that this would save nearly all the urine for useful purposes, and would make the air of the stables pleasant and healthful to the stock and their owners. The importance of this economy will appear when we reflect that the liquid voidings of a cow range from nine hundred to twelve hundred gallons a year, according to the age and size of the animal; and of a horse, from eleven hundred to fourteen hundred gallons a year, which are worth more, pound for pound, than the solid excrements."

Inquiries and Answers.

"Ohio" Broom Corn.—I noticed in a back number of the Rural, (Feb., 1860, I think,) a communication relating to broom corn, in which a variety called the "Ohio" was recommended as best for cultivation. Can you, or any of your readers, inform me as to where I can get some of the seed of that variety?—M. N. C., *Vernon, Vt.*, 1861.

Pork-raising at the West.—As the Rural gives valuable essays on the raising and management of sheep and cattle, I would be pleased if some of your readers would give one on the management of hogs,—their experience in raising, profits, and also the best breeds. The soil here is a clay loam, adapted to hay, corn, wheat, &c. The prevailing crop has been hay, and I am afraid it has prevailed too long. Our ground is gradually deteriorating year after year, and we must have a change in our present farm products. We raise only enough stock to consume one tenth of our hay, hence we have no manure. Our hay is sent South every year and there is nothing retained for the land. We got twenty dollars a ton this season, but the land gets nothing. At one time we could get a good seeding to grass the first season, but now, when we plow worn meadows, and get one crop of corn while the sod is rotting, the grass will not grow and make a good meadow for a considerable time, hence my inquiry as to the raising and management of hogs. I mention hogs in particular, as they are quick of sale and can convert clover into meat. We can depend on nothing better than clover for the strengthening of our worn lands.—S. H. C., *Allensville, Switz. Co., Ind.*, 1861.

Constipation in Sheep.—My sheep are dying off, and I cannot determine the nature of the disease, nor find a remedy. Their feed has been plenty of good hay, some bean fodder, and a little corn once a day. They are fat, strong, and in good condition until taken with the disease. Symptoms as follows:—Are taken with a trembling and shivering all over, and in short time, say a half hour, fall down, sometimes first sit down on their haunches. When down, never get up again, lie on the side, throw the head straight back to the shoulder, wild expression in the eye, and very hard breathing, have spasms, kick, struggle and groan, and appear in great distress. One that was taken in the night was found dead in the morning and badly bloated. Some that I have tried to doctor live from one to three days, get blind in about 24 hours and their eyes look white and milky. Have given the sick ones brandy and Cayenne pepper. As a preventive for the well ones have given tar and sulphur. Can you, or any of your readers, tell me the disease, the remedy, and a preventive.—Jesse F. Romer, *West Kendall, Orleans Co., N. Y.*, 1861.

It is more than probable that your sheep are suffering from constipation. Reduce their food and give physic. Doses of Epsom salts (half an ounce to an ounce,) will be found one of the very best purgatives for sheep. After purging, keep on light food for a short time. Apoplexy is apt to show itself in sheep that are kept in too high condition, especially if the animal is costive. In such cases, where the symptoms are aggravated, and death will come unless relief be speedily found, draw a small quantity of blood, give four ounces of Epsom salts, and follow with one ounce of the salts every six hours until the bowels open. After this the sheep should be fed very sparingly for a few days.

Feeding Cobs and Cob Meal.—In the fall of 1857 I fed an ox on corn and cob meal to fatten. When killed, his paunch contained a mass two thirds filling it, entirely composed of the hard, flinty shell which envelops the end of the kernel and is left on the cob in shelling. This was so hard that it could not be broken with the pole of an ax. It remained undissolved by frost or rain till late in the spring. The next year I fed a cow with the same result, only the mass was not more than half so large. Two horses in this vicinity died, and an examination showed the same collection of indigestible matter, but it was not hard or caked as in the other cases. Cob meal may be good for stock, like the man's sawdust, and I can say with him that the more grain and the less cob the better.—S. B. Conner, *Lexington, Rich. Co., Ohio*, 1861.

Subscriber wishes Rural readers to give their views as to the best way to feed corn ground,—with or without the cob. After trying both ways, I believe the cob to be injurious to all kinds of animals, as it is entirely indigestible (except for fowls, such as turkeys, &c.,) consequently causing symptoms of irritation of the bowels, thereby carrying off the real nutritious qualities of the corn to some extent. After feeding one hundred bushels of corn and cob meal, I have decided that the only real argument in favor of this method is,—it saves shelling the corn. I much prefer to shell the corn and mix with oats and have it ground fine—say two of corn to one of oats,—or if the corn is ground clear, mix it with bran or shorts before feeding.—G. A. Dillingham, *Lisbon, N. Y.*, 1861.

Foot-rot in Sheep—*Another Remedy.*—In the Rural New-Yorker of January 5, a subscriber wants to know what will cure this disease. I will give him an infallible remedy, as I have tested it myself, and I never had to use it more than once, one application being sufficient, either for the Foul in horned cattle or Foot Rot in sheep. Take one-and-a-half gills of vinegar, 2 oz. verdigris, 1 oz. of white arsenic, 2 oz. of bole armoniac; 3 oz. of honey, 2 oz. of saltpeter; ¼ oz. blue vitriol. The blue vitriol and saltpeter to be dissolved, and the whole to be mixed together and applied with a feather to the hoofs after they have been well cleaned from mud. If the first application has not the desired effect, I will warrant the second.—Robert Douglas, *Truxton, Cort. Co., N. Y.*, 1861.

Doings of Agricultural Societies.

N. Y. STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting of this Society was held last week at Albany. The attendance was not large, though quite respectable, and the sessions interesting. Though we have notes and reports of the entire proceedings, we can only give a synopsis of the most important at present.

The Society met in the Assembly Chamber at 12 o'clock on Wednesday, President Huntington in the chair. The Treasurer submitted his report, the *figurative* portion of which we subjoin:

Luther H. Tucker, Treasurer, in account with the New York State Agricultural Society,

Dr.	1860
To cash on hand at date of last report	$5,686 67
Annual Memberships received	103 00
Life Memberships received	200 00
Premium returned	10 00
State appropriation for Entomologist	1,000 00
Do. do for Society	700 00
Cash from Elmira local committee	1,200 00
Net receipts of Elmira Fair	9,042 95
Rent of refreshment stands at Elmira Fair	500 00
Interest received on cash on hand	121 80
	$18,563 82

Cr.	1860
By Cash Payments as follows:—	
Premiums at Winter Meeting, 1860	$533 00
Expenses at do do	61 73
Survey of Onondaga county	300 00
Premiums of previous fairs	539 75
Expenses of previous fairs, including settlement of Albany claim of 1859	1,256 43
Salaries and traveling expenses	3,012 31
Salary of Entomologist, Dr Asa Fitch	1,000 00
Expenses of Library and Museum	146 07
Postage account	181 02
Incidental expenses	199 68
Printing, Advertising and Stationery	614 69
Expenses of Elmira fair	3,835 94
Premiums at Elmira fair	5,230 43
Cash on hand to new account	1,792 71
	$18,563 82

Mr. Secretary Johnson read the Report of the Executive Committee, which comprised many interesting facts and suggestions. It will be published in the Society's Transactions.

On motion the usual Committee of twenty four—three from each Judicial District—was appointed to nominate officers for the ensuing year, and recommend a place for holding the next Annual Fair. The Committee subsequently made the following report:

President—Hon. George Geddes, of Onondaga.

Vice Presidents (one for each Judicial District)—John Jay, of New York; Benj. F. Camp, of Westchester; Herman Wendell, of Albany; John A. Corey, of Saratoga; S. D. Hungerford, of Jefferson; Ezra Cornell, of Tompkins; D. D. T. Moore, of Monroe; Samuel W. Johnson, of Cattaraugus.

Corresponding Secretary—B. P. Johnson, of Albany.

Recording Secretary—Erastus Corning, Jr., of Albany.

Treasurer—Luther H. Tucker, of Albany.

Executive Committee—T. C. Peters, of Genesee; N. Lapham, of Clinton, John Winslow, of Jefferson, E. Sherrill, of Ontario, Samuel Thorne, of Dutchess.

The Committee reported that Watertown was the only place which had applied for the Fair, and recommended that the subject of selecting the place be referred to the Executive Committee.

The report of the Committee was adopted, and the officers nominated duly elected.

A motion, offered by Mr. Peters, of Genesee, to hold a Fair, in July or August next, at Canandaigua, or some other point in the interior of the State, for the Trial of Agricultural Implements, was referred to the Executive Committee. The proposition seemed to meet with much favor, and the Ex. Com. subsequently decided to carry it out.

A resolution, in favor of the passage of the Assembly bill, authorizing the collection of agricultural statistics, was adopted.

A resolution approving of the proposed exhibition of industry of all nations, in London, in 1862, and pledging the Society to aid in the enterprise, was adopted.

On motion of Hon. T. C. Peters, a resolution was adopted affirming the impossibility of offering separate premiums for imported cattle, and in favor of their taking their chances of prizes with domestic cattle.

Several important questions were introduced and discussed during the sessions and referred to the Executive Committee for action.

On Wednesday evening, Dr. Asa Fitch, Entomologist to the Society, read a paper on the entomological peculiarities of the past season—and Mr. J. S. Gould read an essay on Grasses and their cultivation.

The Winter Exhibition

Of Fruits, Grains, Dairy Products, &c., on Thursday, was not large, but included superior specimens in each class. We have only space to give the list of premiums awarded as follows:

FARMS.

Grain Farm.—A. B. Denham, Dryden, Tomp. Co. $50.

Butter Dairy Farm.—Robert Harvey, Leyden, Lewis Co., $50.

Cheese Dairy Farm.—Leonard S. Strandlog, Deer River, Lewis Co., $50.

Discretionary.—A. H. Bock, Lowville, Lewis Co., (Cheese Dairy Farm,) S. Med. Special premium, Hiram Olmstead, Walton, Del. Co., (Butter Dairy,) $10.

Grass Crop.—C. L. Kiersted, Ulster Co., crop Grass, 4 tons 1,720 lbs. per acre, Trans.; Solomon Walrath, Canton, St. Lawrence Co., special premium on Scotch Wheat, Trans.; Solomon Walrath, Bread from Scotch Wheat, Bridgman's Gardener.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

Tompkins County Agricultural Society, $30; Ithaca Farmers' Club, 20.

DRAINING, &C.

A. H. Duck, Lowville, Draining Peat Swamp, $10.

GRASSES, &C.

Mrs. Isaac Clement, Mechanicsville, 100 varieties, $15.

FIELD CROPS.

Spring Wheat.—Clift Eames, Rutland, Jeff. Co., 3 acres and 62 rods, crop 101 bushels, $15. Mr. Hiram Olmstead, Walton, Del. Co., presented a crop of 87½ bushels Spring Wheat raised on 2 acres and 18 rods. The crop did not meet the requirements of the Society, as to the amount per acre, (30 bushels,) therefore not awarded any regular premium. Trans.

Rye.—C. L. Kiersted, Kingston, Ulster Co., 2 acres, 68 bushels, $15; 2d, same, 6 acres and 6-100, 198 bushels, 10.

Buckwheat.—C. W. Eells, Lairdsville, Oneida Co., 1 acre 4 p., 31 1-5 bushels, $8. Hiram Olmstead raised 31 2-3 bushels Buckwheat on 112 rods land. The amount of land required to be cultivated was one acre. His land is short that amount, but his crop exceeds the required amount from an acre. Awarded a discretionary premium of $6.

Barley.—Hiram Mills, Lowville, Lewis Co., 2 acres, 103¾ bushels, 15.

Oats.—C. L. Kiersted, 3 54-100 acres, 303½ bushels, $15; 2d, Ira R. Peck, East Bloomfield, Ontario Co., 15 acres, 1,284 bushels, 10.

Potato Crop.—Sylvanus Burtis, Oaks Corners, Ont. Co., 1 acre, 264 bushels, $8; 2d, E. S. Hayward, Rochester, 1 57-100 acres, 349 bushels, 5.

Peas.—E. C. Peck, East Bloomfield, Ontario Co., 1 88-100 acres, 92 bushels, $8.

Discretionary.—Hiram Olmstead raised 956 bushels Ruta Bagas on 138 rods land and 254 bushels Carrots on 44 rods of land, $8.

GRAINS AND SEEDS.

One bushel the amount of grain exhibited.

Winter Wheat.—A. I. Pine, Pittstown, Rens. Co., $3, 2d, C. W. Eells, 2, 3d, E. S. Hayward, 1.

Spring Wheat.—C. W. Eells, $3; 2d, A. I. Pine, 2; 3d, D. W. C. De Forest, De Peysterville, Rens. Co., 1.

Rye.—E. S. Hayward, $3, 2d, A. I. Pine, 2.

Barley—*Four Rowed.*—Hiram Mills, $3, 2d, C. Oaks, Oaks Corners, Ont. Co., 2; 3d, Henry Wier, Johnsonville, Rens. Co., 1.

Barley—*Two Rowed.*—A. H. Bock, $3.

Discretionary.—E. Merriam, for sample Russian Barley, Trans.

Oats.—H. Mills, "Scotch Oats," $3, 2d, C. W. Eells, 2; 3d, H. Wier, "Poland Oats," 1.

Buckwheat.—C. W. Eells, $3, 2d, H. Wier, 2.

Flax Seed.—H. Wier, $3; 2d, same, 2.

Yellow Corn.—A. I. Pine, $3; 2d, H. Wier, 2; 3d, C. W. Eells, 1.

White Corn.—H. Wier, $3.

Peas.—A. H. Bock, "Black Eyed," $3.

Beans.—H. Wier, $3, 2d, A. I. Pine, 2; 3d, H. Wier, 1.

Timothy Seed.—2d, A. I. Pine, $2.

Discretionary.—Oliver Vanrelen, Cortland, Cort. Co., one quart English Turnip Seed, Trans. Mrs. H. Wier, 10 bus. Corn in ear, California Millet, and Broom Corn Millet, Trans and Downing.

DAIRY.

Butter.—3 tubs, J. S. Holbert, Chemung, Chem. Co., $10, 2d, Mrs. E. Merriam, Leyden, Lewis Co., 10.

Butter Made in June, August, and November.—Wm. Pugh, Turin, Lewis Co., $15.

Winter Butter.—Clift Eames, Rutland, Jeff. Co., $5; 2d, A. I. Pine, 3, 3d, C. W. Eells, Trans.

Cheese.—Clift Eames, $15; 2d, Moses Eames, 10.

FRUITS.

Apples.—20 varieties, Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, (40 varieties,) $4, 16, Wm. H. Slingerland, Normanskill 3, 2d, A. I. Pine, Barry and I. Best dish, D. W. C. De Forest, S. S. Medal.

Pears.—Collection (41 varieties,) Ellwanger & Barry, Dip and S. Med. Best var. Isabella Grapes, R. F. Wilcs, Albany, S. S. Med. Dr. Presbrey, Buffalo, exhibited samples of Isabella Wine, two years old, which was highly commended by several gentlemen, judges of wine, S. Med. C. N. Bement, Po'keepsie, for Currant and other Wines exhibited, S. Med.

Discretionary Premiums.—D. A. Bulkeley, Williamstown, Mass., 18 varieties Corn in ear, Downing. D. A. Bulkeley, sample Seedling Potatoes, yield last year per acre 534 bushels, Bridgman. Wm. H. Slingerland, Carrots and Mangel Wurzel, Trans. D. L. Halsey, Victory, Cayuga Co., 3 Rouen Ducks, (dressed,) S. Med. M. Van Auken, Cohoes, Van Auken's Washing Machine, S. S. Med. Marcus Pratt, Ireland's Corners, Victor Straw Cutter, S. S. Med. D. B. Prindle, East Bethany, N. Y. Corn Planter, S. S. Med. Miss Lucy N. Andrus, Turin, Lewis Co., Pencil Drawing Lewis Co. Fair Building, S. S. Med.

Irrigation.—A valuable practical Essay on Irrigation was presented, and is in the hands of the Committee on Essays, and the Essay will appear in the Transactions, with report of Committee.

On Thursday evening the Annual Address was delivered by the retiring President, after which the President elect, Hon. Geo. Geddes, pronounced the following inaugural:

Gentlemen of the New York State Agricultural Society:—I assume the duties of this place in obedience to your action, not at all in accordance with my own pleasure. I have been content to be a learner in the Society, and feel earnest diffidence at being placed at its head. I know what the Society has done for the State. The past is *secure*—what shall be in the future, I do not predict. This Society has done for the State of New York, or rather the State of New York has done through the Society, more in its sphere of duty than has been accomplished by any other Government with so little expense.

The Society has risen in calm and quiet progress; the law that organized it has but few sections. It did but give it a legal form and existence. It has moved in its own strength. The public spirit of the localities where its Fairs have been held, has provided for them. In relation to these Fairs, I have not had the advantages of comparison by foreign travel, but the last Fair which I saw, (the one at Albany,) I believe to have been the best representation upon a single field, of more value and excellence than has been elsewhere gathered.

Since you have been pleased to make me your President, I have looked around to inquire into its responsibilities. This Society owes its success to its Executive Committee—not so much to its President as to that Committee. In them you have been exceedingly fortunate. Gentlemen who have been many years with us, have acted there. Some have retired, whose absence I very much regret. I would like the assistance of their practical knowledge, and I dislike to part from friends so thoroughly tested. I thank you for the honor you have done me in this appointment. [illegible] should be indiscriminating. Accepting it with diffidence and asking your indulgence, I turn to the Executive Committee, and ask them to do to me as to my predecessor—to attend all the meetings, and if possible, to make this a year of success.

Rural Notes and Items.

"Farmers, Write for Your Paper."—This has long been the motto of the *Prairie Farmer*, always a capital paper—whether conducted by Wright and Wight, as of yore, or Emery and Bragdon, as now—and here is a suggestive item on the subject from its first number for 1861. Readers of the Rural New-Yorker, who ought also to be writers for its practical departments, will please consider the remarks copied for their edification:—"Send us your experiences—tell of the lessons you have learned the past season. We are not altogether selfish in this asking. We ask it that there may be a mutual benefit. It assists the man who writes, because the effort to put it upon paper involves an analysis of his subject, and begets new thoughts and often new conclusions. It assists us, because it adds to the usefulness and practical value of the paper to practical men, and it aids our readers, because they are thus enabled to compare the experience of others with their own—to amend their practice when the reflection of the ideas of others mirrors its faults. It will please us, therefore, if there be at once frank, mutual friendship and reciprocal relations established between ourselves and our readers, and among our readers themselves—a desire to mutually benefit, aid, and encourage, by cheerfully and promptly advising, and writing for each other."

Death of a Venerable Farmer.—In Claremont, N. H., on the 29th ult., the Hon. Isaac Hubbard departed this life, aged 90 years and 6 months. A long and useful life has thus been closed, and Mr. Hubbard has gone to the grave mourned by all who enjoyed his acquaintance. The *Boston Cultivator* says he died in his early home on the banks of the beautiful Connecticut, rendered attractive by his superior taste and skill. His business concerns were conducted with a great degree of probity and uprightness. Industrious, frugal, just and benevolent, he lived a quiet, peaceful, happy life. He was one of the early settlers of Claremont, and contributed his full share to promote the prosperity of this flourishing town. He will be remembered as an intelligent and successful cultivator and stock raiser. For a long series of years he had the reputation of sending the best fatted beef to Brighton Market. He raised and fed the mammoth ox "Olympus," which was exhibited in various parts of this country, and afterwards sent to England.

Steam Plows in France.—A Parisian journal, *Le Genie Industriel* says that ten steam plows, with twelve horse power engines to operate them, are now being made under the orders of the Emperor by Mr. Dickoff, at Das le Doc. The locomotive is to be placed on one side of the field, the plows to be drawn by an endless chain, the opposite extremity of which is secured by an anchor. The plows are in gangs of eight, four to operate in one direction and four in the other. After each passage of the plows back and forth, the engine and the anchor are moved along at the side of the field a distance corresponding to the width plowed, which is about four feet. This plan was tried several years ago in England.

Kentucky State Fair.—Notwithstanding the excitement about Secession, our Kentucky brethren seem to think that the old fashioned plan for saving and strengthening any government,—encouraging agriculture and mechanic arts,—is the best, and they have, consequently, set apart five days (17—21) in September, for holding their Annual State Exhibition. Louisville is the point designated. The amount of the premium list reaches $3,000, and the prizes are judiciously distributed between the departments of agriculture and manufactures.

The Hop Crop of New York.—The returns of the Inspector show that, from Jan. 1, 1860, to Jan. 1, 1861, the amount of hops inspected in this State was 2120 bales, weighing 403,680 pounds. Of this amount, 463 bales only were the growth of 1860. With the exception of 1850, when the total reached 1630 bales, weighing 280,530 pounds, this is the smallest yield of any year since 1851.

HORTICULTURAL.

VEGETATION OF SEEDS.

In a few weeks the changing seasons will again bring "seed time." The precious seed, containing the germ that under favorable circumstances will produce a plant like its parent, will be committed to the earth. But, much that is sown will fall in stony places, and be withered by the scorching sun as soon as the tender roots reach out in search of nourishment from the soil; some will be choked with thorns and weeds, and never reward the sower for his labor or expense. So it was ages ago, so it is now, and so it will continue to be, perhaps, for ages yet to come. The lovers of flowers are now providing themselves with seeds for the coming spring, from the different dealers. We think it perfectly safe to say that at least eighty per cent. of these seeds are good, and will produce plants if properly treated, and yet we have no doubt that nine-tenths will never be seen again after they are committed to the earth. It is well then that we should investigate the cause of this destruction of valuable seeds, and ascertain if we can, the conditions necessary to their growth.

A portion of the people think altogether too lightly of this subject. They appear to entertain the idea that seeds will grow anywhere, and under any circumstances. Hence it matters but little whether what they plant is good or bad, the result is the same. They have seen the farmer make a hole and throw his corn into the ground, and in a little while it was up and growing. They have learned, too, that the seeds of our native trees and weeds grow without planting and care, and from these facts they get the idea that it is of little consequence where or how seeds are planted, so that they are in the ground. But, these should remember that the seeds planted by the farmer produce stronger and more robust plants than those of the florist, and thus are enabled to bear more hardships and to live under more unfavorable circumstances. Still, the farmers are fast learning that the better they prepare the ground, and the more they study the nature and wants of the plants they cultivate, the better the crop. Another fact should be remembered, that not one seed in a thousand matured by our forest trees and shrubs, produces a living plant. We cannot afford to purchase costly seeds and lose such a large proportion, which we will do if we plant in the same manner. Our weeds are hardy and prolific, very tenacious of life, and are able to propagate themselves under the most unfavorable circumstances, otherwise they would not be weeds. Most of our troublesome weeds are of foreign origin, the seeds being brought here by accident. Perhaps the largest part thus introduced have lived for a season and perished unnoticed, while the hardiest became naturalized. If the florist would be satisfied with only the most hardy and prolific flowers, such as would take care of themselves, then he might pursue a careless system of planting and cultivation, fill his garden with dandelions and poppies; but he wants the rare and beautiful flowers of every land, as far as climate will permit, to adorn his garden. He must have those that flourish naturally in warmer climes, and under more genial skies, and to do so, care and skill is required, and a different system of culture than is necessary for the propagation of weeds.

There are others who have altogether an exaggerated view of the difficulties to be encountered in the growth of plants from seed. These views may have been the result of repeated failures. They think a Hot-Bed or a Green-House essential, and that without these conveniences little can be done in growing valuable plants. This is not the case, yet it is a fact that in a hot-bed, if properly managed, seeds will grow freely; and, it is well that we should ascertain why this is so.

In the first place, however, we will examine the causes of failure. If fine seeds are planted *too deep*, they either rot in the damp, cold earth, for the want of the warmth necessary to their germination, or after germination perish before the tender shoots can reach the sun and air, so that that which was designed for their support and nourishment proves their graves.

If the soil is a *stiff clay*, it is often too cold at the time the seeds are planted to effect their germination, for it must be understood that *warmth* and *moisture* are necessary to the germination of seeds. Neither of these will do alone. Seeds may be kept in a warm dry room, in dry sand or earth, and they will not grow. They may be placed in damp earth, and kept in a low temperature, and they will most likely rot, though some seeds will remain dormant a long time under these circumstances. But place them in moist earth, in a warm room, and they will commence growth at once. Another difficulty with heavy or clay soil is, that it becomes hard on the surface, and this prevents the young plants from "coming up," or, if during showery weather they happen to get above the surface, they become locked in, and make but little advancement, unless the cultivator is careful to keep the crust well broken.

If seeds are sown in *rough, lumpy ground*, a portion will be buried under the clods and never grow, and much that start will not find a fit soil for their tender roots, and perish. A few may escape these difficulties, and flourish.

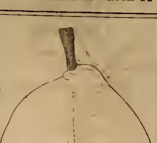
All of the above cases show good reason for failure, but there is one cause of failure in which the reason is not so apparent. The soil, we will suppose, is well prepared, fine as it can be made, and of that loamy or sandy character best fitted for small seeds. We will suppose, too, that the seed were sown on the surface with a little earth sifted over them, and that this was not done until the season was so far advanced as to furnish the warmth necessary to secure vegetation. Under these very favorable circumstances many seeds will grow, and if the weather is both warm and showery, very few will fail. But if, as is very common at the season of the year when we plant our seeds, we have a succession of cold rain storms, many will perish. A night's frost will ruin all. If, however, the weather should prove warm and without showers, the surface will become very dry, and the seeds having so slight a covering will be dried up and perish as soon as they germinate, and before the roots attain sufficient size and strength to go down where the soil is more moist.

It is to overcome these evils that *Hot Beds* are useful. By being protected on the sides and ends with boards and covered with glass, they confine the moisture which arises from the earth in mist, and thus the atmosphere is kept humid and the surface moist, and the plants are not subjected to the changes of temperature, as a uniform state can be maintained, no matter what the weather may be. The bottom-heat of the hot-bed warms the soil, and enables the grower to put in his seed early and obtain plants of good size before the soil outside is warm enough to receive the seed. The principal advantages of the *hot-bed*, however, can be secured by what is called a *Cold Frame*.

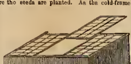
DORCHESTER BEAUTY PEAR.

AMONG the new pears we had an opportunity to examine and taste the last season, was the Dorchester Beauty, a seedling of Mr. CLAPP's, of Dorchester, Mass. It is inferior to *Clapp's Favorite*, which we before noticed, and far less promising; yet it is a handsome pear. The Native Fruit Committee of the American Pomological Society describe it as "a handsome, but rather poor fruit." The Fruit Committee of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, say "the tree is a fine grower, and very productive; size rather large, 2¾ by 2½ inches; form, obovate; skin, yellow, with a carmine cheek, inclining to orange, and containing a few gray dots; stem, three-fourths of an inch long, inserted in a very small cavity, with several faint rings; calyx, medium; segments, erect, set in a superficial plaited basin; core, medium; seed, plump, light brown; flesh, not very juicy; flavor, pleasant; quality, very good. Ripe, from the middle of August to the middle of September."

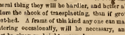
This is one of the most beautiful looking pears that have been produced, but the specimens tested by the Committee were dry, and of ordinary quality. The past season having been unfavorable for the production of fruit of high flavor, it is not safe to express a very decided opinion of any new fruit.



This is simply a hot-bed frame, with glazed sash, as shown in the engraving, placed upon a bed of fine, mellow earth, in some sheltered place in the garden. By the exclusion of air, and the admission of sun, the earth becomes warm, and the moisture is confined, as in the hot-bed. After the frame is secured in its place, a couple of inches of fine earth should be placed inside, and the frame closed up for a day or two before the seeds are planted. As the cold-frame depends upon the sun for its warmth, it must not be started as soon as the hot-bed, and in this latitude the latter part of April is early enough. Plants will then be large enough for transplanting to the open ground as soon as danger from frost is over, and as a general thing they will be hardier, and better able to endure the shock of transplanting, than if grown in a hot-bed. A frame of this kind any one can manage. Watering occasionally, will be necessary, and air must be given on bright, warm days.

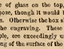


HOT-BED FRAME.



HAND-GLASS.

The same object may be accomplished in a way even more simple, by *hand-glasses*. The engraving above shows one form. The back may be either board or glass, and if the former, it should be placed so as to face south-east, tho' the better way is to have the ends board and the sides glass. Another and very convenient style of *hand-glass* is made square, being a simple frame with glass set in the sides and top. A simple frame with a pane of glass on the top, will answer a very good purpose, though it would be better to have the front glass. Otherwise the box should be lower than shown in the engraving. These contrivances, though so simple, are exceedingly useful, as they prevent the drying of the surface of the ground, shelter the plants, and preserves them from the effects of sudden changes, cold storms, and frosty nights. In this way seeds usually considered difficult of growth, can be grown with ease. For melons, cucumbers, &c., these hand-glasses are exceedingly useful. Indeed, in this latitude it is almost impossible to raise good melons without them.



SQUARE HAND-GLASS.

BOX HAND-GLASS.

But, where these conveniences are not to be had,—though we hope there are few of our readers so unfortunately situated,—make a good bed of light, mellow soil, in a sheltered situation in the garden, and as soon as the weather becomes settled, and the ground warm, sow the seeds, carefully covering with a little fine earth, and if the seeds are small, sift it on. Then cover the bed with damp moss, which will prevent the surface from drying. The covering must be removed as soon as the young plants make their appearance above the ground.

If these hints are heeded, we think our readers will have little cause to complain that their seeds refuse to grow. In a future number we will resume the subject.

INTRODUCED PLANTS.

In the last year's Transactions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, we find an interesting article under the above heading, by CHARLES J. SPRAGUE, from which we make the following extract:

"There are few places which afford such an abundance and variety of naturalized foreign plants as the vicinity of Boston. The number of plants recorded in Dr. GRAY's Manual of the Northern States, as being acclimated in that region, is 260 out of 2351, or just one-ninth of the whole. Of this number more than one-third are to be found more or less commonly around Boston. The causes of this are the immigration of people of many nations who have brought with them, in their apparel or luggage, the seeds of the commoner plants of their own country, which would be likely to adhere to them; seeds mingled with the grass seed imported here; and others attached to the many articles of merchandise coming constantly into the country.

Some of these have spread themselves so widely as to have become intolerable pests to the agriculturist, who does not know, perhaps, that the enemy he seeks to destroy is a foreign one. It is a singular fact, that nearly all the weeds which have become the special curse of New England farmers are introduced plants. *Buttercups*, the plaything of children, and the overspreading plague of some grass regions, are from Europe. Some localities in Maine are absolutely golden in the season of their flowering. The *Barberry*, which has so thoroughly established itself in this vicinity, is European, and has not elsewhere taken such a hold. *Celandine*, which fills our waste places with its delicate green leaves at the very beginning of spring, and displays its pretty yellow blossoms later, with which children anoint their warty fingers to rid them of their excrescences, is European. The *Water Cress*, common in our markets in spring, the *Hedge Mustard*, which sends up its gaunt spikes of fruit so commonly by the roadsides, the *Shepherd's Purse*, covering waste places everywhere with its early green, the *Wild Radish*, which has become a very troublesome field weed, are all European. Among the common and more or less troublesome usurpers of the soil are *St. John's Wort*, *Bladder Campion*, *Mouse-Ear Chickweed*, *Purslane*, *Common Mallow*, or cheeses as the children call them, nearly all the *Clovers*, *May Weed*, and *White Weed*. This last is a thorough plague in grass lands. Its strong roots kill out the grass sod are difficult to extirpate. Its origin here is differently explained. Some say it was introduced as a pretty flower; others that it was brought over, like many others, with grass seed or in luggage. In Europe it is a pet of the poets, and, under the romantic names of Ox Eye Daisy and Marguerite, it has been celebrated in verse. Here it is universally execrated as an intolerable pest. The *Canada Thistle* is not by any means a Canadian visitor. It comes from Europe, and its legion of seeds have spread it broadcast over the land. The *Burdock*, equally common and the sport of children, comes from the same source. *Succory* or *Cicory* has established itself thoroughly around Boston. This is the same plant cultivated abroad for the "Chicory," which is used to adulterate coffee; the root being used after roasting and grinding. Here it is only known for its beautiful starry blue flowers. The *False Dandelion* has completely established itself in our grass lands, and sends up its branching flower-stems in autumn, covering our parterres with its yellow blossoms. Many unquestionably think it a late blossoming of the true Dandelion, which is quite a different plant. Other worthless visitors are the *Low Thistles*, *Mullein*, *Toad Flax*, *Blue Verbena*, *White Verbena*, *Motherwort*, *Bindweed*, *Nightshade*, *Thorn Apple*, all of the *Pigweeds*, all of the *Amaranths*, *Smart Weed*, *Bitter* and *Curled Dock*, and *Field Sorrel*, and *Nettle*.

It will be noticed that in the above enumeration are comprised most of the troublesome weeds which infest our grounds. It is somewhat singular that the agriculturist should have to thank other regions of the globe for the most valuable as well as the most vexatious plants which grow under his eye. Some of the plants enumerated have become so completely naturalized as to make it difficult, without sufficient data, to affirm their foreign origin.

There are some curious points in regard to this naturalization. Many of the commonest of European weeds have never taken possession here, while others have multiplied prodigiously. Of the many European violets, only one, the *Viola Tricolor*, has established itself, and that sparingly. As we have numerous species of violets ourselves, this seems the more strange. Out of 132 species of *Carex* or *Sedge*, only one is foreign, and that only in one small locality. As Sedges must inevitably be cut with grass in the season of haying, it is singular that the foreign species should not have been brought here with grass seed. The laws which govern the growth of plants in different localities are obscure in their workings. We find individual species establishing themselves everywhere, while other closely allied species refuse to be transplanted. Some garden plants defy the care and attention of the florist, while others overrun the garden wall and take full possession of the neighboring farmer's field, destroying his harvests as they move.

THE NORTHERN SPY APPLE.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—I observe that the discussions of the Fruit Growers of Western New York, at their recent meeting, indicate that the Spy has been more than usually successful the past season. This has also been the case here, in a very marked degree. Scions of this variety were first introduced here about the year '45, and grafted in the tops of large trees, where they made a fine growth, and in some cases produced a few specimens within the next four or five years. In most cases, however, they have, by their non-bearing quality, been a severe tax upon the patience of cultivators. One of the oldest growers of this fruit hereabouts, who has a large number of the trees, realized a full crop for the first time, in 1857; since which time his trees have produced little or nothing until the past season, when another full crop was realized. Indeed, throughout the entire State, so far as I have been able to learn, the past season has been one of unusual fruitfulness with this variety. Having seventy or eighty fine thrifty trees of this kind, large enough to have produced full crops for the last five or six years, but which had failed to realize my expectations, I had for the last year or two seriously contemplated re-grafting them, but the profuse crop of the past year, and the great beauty and fine quality of the fruit, have induced me to delay the operation; although, from past experience, we can by no means feel sure that the improvement will be permanent. There are also abundant reasons to fear that the spot or scab, to which it is subject at the East, will also attend it here. On young trees especially it seems disposed to bear only on the inner branches, for which reason the fruit lacks color and flavor, unless the trees are kept thoroughly pruned.

With me the fruit averages very large, and doubtless for that reason fails to keep as long as it has the credit of doing at the East. It is now in its prime.

Plymouth, Mich., Feb. 11th, 1861. T T LYON

THE Northern Spy is now more abundant in our market than any other variety. In this respect it seems to have taken the place of the Baldwin and the Greening. A few such seasons as the past would make the Spy very popular here.

INSECT POWDER.

A VEGETABLE powder, under the name of "Persian Insect Powder," has lately been introduced into the drug market, for the extermination of insects, vegetable parasites, &c. Until recently, the botanical source of this powder has not been known. For a number of years it was erroneously considered to be a native of Persia, but it has been traced beyond question by Dr. Koch, as having its origin in the Caucasian provinces, and to be the contused blossoms and flowers of Pyrethrum roseum and Pyrethrum carneum. It is of a yellowish, gray color, perfectly odorless, yet slightly irritating the nostrils; at first almost tasteless, but afterwards leaving a burning sensation upon the tongue. The high price obtained for it, taken in connection with the scarcity of the article, has induced dealers to adulterate it with plants of similar characteristics, such as chamomile flowers, fleabane, &c.; but the presence of these extraneous substances can, without difficulty, be detected by their peculiar odor, and from the fact that, in proportion as these substances are introduced, the efficacy of the power is impaired.

From experiments lately made in Europe, it has been sufficiently demonstrated that the plant can be propagated from the seed, and that it will thrive in a climate similar to that of our Northern States.

I have recently been informed by a gentleman who obtained some of the seeds of this plant from the Agricultural Bureau at Washington, that the plants therefrom are in a flourishing and prosperous condition.

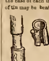
As its effects for the destruction of bugs, roaches, parasites on delicate plants, &c., have been fully established, and it being otherwise harmless, its introduction into general use would be of great importance to families and horticulturists, from the fact that it would exclude the use of poisonous articles, now resorted to for such purposes, which are often the cause of serious accidents.—*Amer. Journal of Pharmacy.*

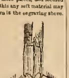
Inquiries and Answers.

INJURY TO AN ORCHARD BY MICE.

I AM in trouble, and if you, or some of your numerous correspondents, will help me out of it, I shall consider it a favor. Two years ago last fall I commenced to set a young orchard. Of the first set, (160,) I lost fifty. I then tried another nursery, setting in the spring, and lost but very few. Yet my field was not filled. Last spring I filled out the field, and lost but three. Last fall I had three hundred trees all alive, doing first-rate, of the best varieties that I could obtain from three different nurseries. It made me feel good to walk through the lot. During the present week I was out to see my trees, and found that the mice had eaten the bark from one-third of them, clear round, from one to six inches up the trees. My anxiety is to save the trees alive.—ASA CROSMAN, *Cato, Feb.*, 1861.

There is no more truthful saying than that prevention is better than cure. Perhaps most of these trees may yet be saved, but if so, it will be at the cost of a good deal of time and anxiety. If a piece of tarred cloth had been tied around the base of each tree, they would have been saved. A piece of tin may be bent around so as to keep the mice from the bark, or a couple of horse-shoe drain-tile, or a wooden box, will answer the same purpose. It is well also to destroy all harbors for mice, and a little effort at the destruction of the mice by poisoning, has often been successful in getting rid of these destructive vermin. But as the evil is now accomplished, we will suggest the best remedy we know of. If the tree is small, and only a small portion is girdled, cut the bark even at the edges, and then take the bark from some limbs, and fit it as nicely as possible in the place girdled, thus restoring the bark taken from the trunk, by that taken from the limbs. It may be in one or in more pieces, and secured in place by grafting wax, and over this any soft material may be tied. The way it is done is shown in the engraving above. If the tree is too large, and the bark is removed too great a distance up the tree for this operation, after smoothing the injured bark, cut scions, and by them connect the upper and lower portions of the bark, as shown in the second engraving. These shoots or scions must be made wedge-shaped, and inserted in a cut made by a chisel, about an inch above and below the edges of the gnawed bark, and well secured in their places.





A correspondent, of Indiana, writes:—"I think I have found out a very satisfactory way of disposing of those trees whose trunks have been winter-killed or girdled by mice. I cut the tree off with a saw just below where the bark is sound, and then insert, *between the bark and wood*, scions, as for cleft grafting. These make a thrifty growth, and if allowed to grow without being mutilated with the knife, will make fruit in a short time. Had I known this plan five years ago, I think that three hundred trees would now be growing for me, at one tenth the trouble and cost I have had in digging out old trees, and in buying, hauling, and planting new ones, from the nursery."

THE COLVERT APPLE.—I noticed in the RURAL of Feb 2d, an inquiry from a subscriber in regard to the *Colvert* apple. I have several young bearing trees of this kind. They fruit well, are large, red striped, pleasant, sub-acid, good for culinary purposes, for eating tolerably good, rather coarse flesh, but liable to fall when fully grown on account of their size and weight. It is a late fall apple, and often keeps till January. *Cooper's Market* apple is a stranger here.

I wish now to make an inquiry, to wit: how much orchard grass seed is required per acre, and the best time to sow it.—I. N. AVERY, *Waterville, Mad. Co., N. Y.*, Feb. 6, 1861.

About twenty four pounds, or two bushels of orchard grass is usually sown on an acre, either in the autumn or early in the spring. When sown with clover, only about one-half this quantity of seed is necessary.

GRAFTING, &c.—In my orchard, which I am trying to improve in various ways, are two thrifty apple trees—the largest in the orchard—from eight to twelve inches in diameter below the limbs, but they bear little fruit, and that is worthless. Will you, or some correspondent, have the kindness to inform me which is the surest and quickest way to obtain good fruit,—to graft, or remove them, and supply their places with young and thrifty trees? Also, which is the best time to paint outside work—spring or fall?—C. W. TURNER, *Dighton*, Feb. 6, 1861.

By grafting the old trees you will obtain good fruit several years before you could obtain any from young trees, and in larger quantities. Paint either late in the autumn or very early in the spring.

LOCUST THORN FOR HEDGES.—Will the RURAL, or some of its numerous contributors, please inform me whether Honey Locust is adapted to the purpose of making a hedge. When is the proper time for planting the seeds? Is it best to plant the seeds in a nursery, or in the hedge row? Is it necessary to scald or soak the seed before planting?—N. E. PRENTICE, *Oustalia, Ohio*, Feb., 1861.

Pour hot water upon the seeds and allow them to soak twelve hours. Plant in April, in rows, and transplant to the hedge when one or two years old. For further information, see RURAL of January 12, of present year, page 14.

Domestic Economy.

SARSAPARILLA SIRUP.

EDS. RURAL NEW-YORKER:—In your paper of a recent date, a subscriber asks for a recipe for Sirup of Sarsaparilla,—herewith you have two:

SARSAPARILLA SIRUP.—Take of the bruised root of sarsaparilla 12 ounces, boil for two hours in 3 gallons water, strain and add 4 lbs. sugar, 4 lbs. maple sugar, and 1 gallon sugar-house molasses,—boil again and remove from the fire.

SARSAPARILLA SIRUP—such as is used for flavoring *soda water*.—Take 12 lbs. brown sugar; 3 oz. extract liquorice; 3 oz. sassafras bark; 2 gallons of water,—boil and strain.—X. Y. Z.

SEEING an inquiry in the RURAL NEW-YORKER for a recipe to make Sarsaparilla Sirup, I send mine, which I know to be good:—Sarsaparilla, one pound; red guacum, half do.; sassafras bark of roots, one-third do.; burdock roots, one-third do.; boil until the strength is all out, then simmer down to two quarts, add two pounds of good sugar, let boil, and skim. When cool, bottle for use. Dose from one-third to one-half of a wine glass three times a day on an empty stomach.—A SUBSCRIBER, *Scioto Co., Ohio*.

To make Sarsaparilla Sirup, take shavings of liquorice root one ounce; sassafras bark, one ounce; sarsaparilla, six ounces,—boil in soft water six hours, then add three drachms of magnarum bark, and boil half an hour, leaving six gills of the liquor. Add half pound of loaf sugar and half pint of alcohol.—S. J. J., *Canton, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y.*, 1861.

SARSAPARILLA SIRUP.—One-half sarsaparilla; one-fourth guacum chips; two of yellow dock; one oz. iodide potassium. Cover with soft water, boil down to two quarts, strain, add two pounds loaf sugar, one pint Holland gin while warm. Cool and add the iodide.—JAS. G. IRWIN, *Southwest Oswego, N. Y.*

DOMESTIC DUTIES.—A knowledge of domestic duties is beyond all price to a woman. Every one of our sex ought to know how to sew, and knit, and mend, and cook, and superintend a household. In every situation of life, high or low, this sort of knowledge is of great advantage. There is no necessity that the gaining of such information should interfere with intellectual acquirement or elegant accomplishment. A well regulated mind can find time to attend to all. When a girl is nine or ten years old, she should be accustomed to take some regular share in household duties, and to feel responsible for the manner in which her part is performed, such as her own mending, washing the cups and putting them in place, cleaning silver, or dusting and arranging the parlor. This should not be done occasionally, and neglected whenever she feels it convenient; she should consider it her department. When older than twelve, girls should begin to take turns in superintending the household, making puddings, pies, cake, &c.; to learn effectually to do these things themselves, and not stand by and see others do them.—*Mrs. Child.*

COMFORT WITHIN DOORS—*How to Make a Lounge.*—Many a one lives a lifetime wanting the little luxuries pertaining to comfort within doors, because of an impression that he cannot afford to buy, and therefore cannot have them. It is not so—although the gloss of silk, or mahogany polished, may not be had, a little application in leisure hours, a little thought and considerable determination or perseverance, will procure all the comforts, if not the show. Money expended to fit up one show room, or to purchase one marble-top table, if applied in the purchase of some easy chairs, would give daily pleasure, and a few inch boards and four pieces of scantling can easily be put together to form the frame work of a lounge. Cover this first with a cushion of common cotton cloth, stuff it with corn husks or straw, then another covering of cheap calico, and you have a resting place equal, so far as comfort is concerned, to the best sofa. Try it, farmers' wives.

CURE FOR NEURALGIA.—Some time since we published, at the request of a friend, a recipe to cure neuralgia. Half a drachm of sal ammonia in an ounce of camphor water, to be taken a teaspoonful at a dose, and the dose repeated several times, at intervals of five minutes, if the pain be not relieved at once. Half a dozen different persons have since tried the recipe, and in every case an immediate cure was effected. In one, the sufferer, a lady, had been subjected to acute pains for more than a week, and her physician was unable to alleviate her sufferings, when a solution of sal ammonia in camphor water relieved her in a few minutes.—*Alta Californian.*

TO MAKE HARD SOAP OF SOFT.—Take good soft soap, any quantity you choose, bring it to a boiling heat, then add salt gradually, stirring it constantly till you observe it separate,—something like curds and whey. Then let it cool, and you can cut it into bars and take out, leaving the ley in the kettle. To purify it further, put the soap again into the kettle, and add an equal quantity of water, and for every five pounds of soap, one-fourth pound of rosin,—make it boil, and again add salt as before. When cold cut it into bars and lay it up to dry.—A PRACTICAL HOUSEWIFE, *Gorham, N. Y.*, 1861.

COOKING EGG PLANT.—A correspondent asks how to cook egg plant. Cut the plant in thin slices, sprinkle with salt, and let them stand half an hour, pour off the water that the salt extracts, and dry the plant with a towel. Beat an egg, dip the plant in it and then in rolled cracker, fry brown in butter. Some prefer simply dipping them in the egg without the cracker, or rolling them in flour without the egg. Season highly and cook slowly.—S. J. T., *South Side, Staten Island, N. Y.*, 1861.

FIRST PREMIUM CORN BREAD.—Scald a pint of Indian meal, add to it a pint of sponge; half teacup of molasses; small teaspoon of saleratus, stir in flour with a spoon till quite stiff, put in pan, let it rise, and bake it one hour.—MRS. E. S. H., *Rochester, N. Y.*

[SPECIAL NOTICE.]

TAKEN—However, that is neither here nor there; she went home to breakfast, and had scarcely caught the full flavor of her first sip of tea, when the servant passed her a plate of biscuit, the sight of which, to say nothing of smell, immediately threw her into violent hysterics. "Oh!" she exclaimed, in an agonizing tone of voice, "take the horrid things from my sight." This sad spectacle would have been prevented had the cook used D B DE LAND & Co.'s Chemical Saleratus, instead of the worthless, impure stuff which did find its way into that otherwise peaceful and happy household. D. B. DE LAND & Co., Fairport, Monroe Co., N. Y., make a perfectly pure and reliable Saleratus. It can be procured of most dealers in groceries, and at wholesale from the grocers in large towns, and of the manufacturers.

Ladies' Department.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

MUSINGS.

O, IT is pain, 'tis agony to know
That those we love so tenderly below
Will sometimes prove unkind,
Will turn to coldness and to grief away,
Forgetting we are human well as they,
By impulse madly blind.

Perhaps it was an idle breath that fanned
The zephyr, and with desolating hand
Left sadness in the soul.
Perchance a jest, a careless spoken word,
Untaught of ill, that quickly fountains stirred,
Which flow at Love's control.

O, I had thought of Friendship as a thing
Too precious, far too pure an offering,
To free from earthly stain,
And Love an emblem of the deathless mind,
Too changeless, gentle, and refined,
To cause one throb of pain.

Timidly have I watched them as they grew,
Leaf after leaf unfolding to the view
In luxurious beauty bright,
And when I fixed my most admiring gaze,
And thought them steady as the noonday blaze,
They vanished from my sight.

O, morning dew is not more brief, I said,
Than Friendship,—but a moment prized, than fled,
Leaving us doubly lone,—
We strive, we yearn to gain a flower so pure,
But, having gained, we deem the prize secure,
And soon 'tis fled and gone.

Is there not some haven here, I cried,
Where envy, jealousy, and human pride
Will cease to mar our love?
An angel, white-robed, from the viewless Heaven,
Sighed, not on earth, *fond dreamer!* is it given,—
Seek it in worlds above.

South Danby, N. Y., 1861. MARY A. B.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

EXTRAVAGANCE IN DRESS.

IN the RURAL of Feb. 2d, I noticed continued observations on "over dressing," and as the subject is one in which all women are interested, we presume that those who wish are at liberty to engage in the discussion. Thus far the subject has been ably, yet tenderly treated,—it has been like trimming and pruning a poor tree to make it bear good fruit. These anglers after truth are seemingly satisfied with the superficial, and let the deep stream of substantiality lie unrippled; while if they would sink the line which they have so richly baited, they would draw up many living, sorrowful truths.

There is no greater evil for the philanthropist to oppose than that of *over dressing.* Were the custom destroyed, the human family would not only be benefited socially, but mentally, morally, and physically. How many fathers are mourning on account of debts that they cannot liquidate, while their gay, thoughtless daughters are expending the little he has left in superfluous dress,—dress that is a detriment to themselves,—for the time and thought that they give it, if wisely used, might improve the mind that they are now dwarfing,—instead of being the mental pigmies that they now are, they might be growing up into the stature of *perfect womanhood.*

With me the effect of *over dressing* has been a life-time lamentation; I regard it a curse in many ways, but the least important consideration is the idea of "*pleasing gentlemen.*" If woman thoroughly studies the law of harmony, it will teach her the art of dressing to correspond with her looks, and that *is perfect taste.* Those are moments ignobly used that woman spends in striving to please the fastidious tastes of man,—but if she would dress plainly, and neatly, and spend the residue of her time in decorating her mind, the *genuine man* would admire her, however scornfully the would-be-gentleman might treat her.

There is a consideration which, with woman, should be pre-eminently above the one of merely pleasing; for there are now hundreds and thousands of women in our land who have been ruined by a love of dress. The wages of an ordinary woman are sufficient to dress her only comfortably; therefore, she cannot honorably procure the fashionable elegances in which almost all ladies of wealth indulge. The poor working girl dislikes to be singled out by her dress as a servant, consequently she dishonors herself that she may appear like other women; and, instead of despising her on account of her immorality, I would pity her because she possesses no more individuality of character, and would condemn that class who set the unworthy example.

Fashion is a tyrant, and sends more women to the haunts of vice than all other causes united; and if the Sisters of Charity are longing for a great work to do, let them, with the charm of example, draw their sister women from the clutches of this monster; then they can truly say, "*I have fought a good fight.*"

Livonia, N. Y., 1861. A FRIEND OF WOMAN.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

THE OLD HOMESTEAD.

THERE is a sweet, magic charm in those three simple words,—the old homestead. It awakens buried memories; it kindles the soul with the recollections and associations that made home the dearest and best place on earth in the days of our youth and childhood.

We remember loving smiles and gentle words from a dear mother's lips. Wisdom and knowledge we learned, and lessons of obedience, from a kind, watchful father. They have proved a talisman of good to us in life's conflict. Other scenes and homes may be more gay and beautiful, yet they fail to awaken the heart, or please the eye with such deep love and reverence as the old homestead.

There are moments in the life of every one when the past will arise to the mind, and we behold loved friends and scenes as plainly that it seems like the opening of a new grave. We forget the present, we care not for the future, our soul is dwelling upon the past. With mingled pleasure and sadness we recall to mind the familiar faces and loved forms that were wont to gather around the bright, cheerful hearthstone of our own loved home. With pleasure, for at the old homestead we ever found friends near and dear, friends firm and true ever greeted us with joy. And though we travel far and wide,—though riches, honor, and fame become ours,—though friends by hundreds crowd around us with praises and congratulations—yet we never find that pure, sincere, disinterested friendship, that ever bade us welcome at the old homestead.

And yet with all these pleasant memories there is mingled a tone of sadness; for there arises a picture so mournful that we would fain turn away from it. We would not if we could forget it, though the picture were thrice as gloomy and dark. We remember, so distinctly, though but a child in years, when *Death* first entered the old homestead and unfurled his dark pinions. We saw and feared his coming. We knew when he crossed our threshold, though his step was silent and his form unseen. With bursting heart and tearless cheek we stood by the couch of the dying, and saw Death's icy glance steal over the beloved eyes that would never again beam with love and affection in our family circle. The voice was forever silent that we thought was to guide us with words of wisdom and instruction. Cold and motionless was the form of the strong man, who had been our guide, strength and counsellor. Death had finished his work and left as noiselessly as he entered, but oh, what a chill and gloom his presence had cast upon every object. The very stillness seemed painful, every heart was too full for utterance. But no one could doubt, as he looked upon that mourning group and saw their sad, grief-stricken countenances, that they had drank to the very dregs the cup that had been placed to their lips, "though the blanched lip breathed forth no plaint of common grief."

We well remember how very lonely the old homestead seemed to us. How weeks and months passed ere the dark shadow which Death had cast over it grew less drear and gloomy, and it has never seemed to wear so joyous and cheerful a look since Death broke the chain that bound the dear home circle. Yet we love and prize it more although grief and sorrow are mingled with its scenes. It renders the old homestead more sacred and precious when we recall to mind the memory of the departed; though we see the vacant chair, and sadly miss the welcome voice, we would not exchange its sweet, sad memories, for the fairest, gayest home that earth can give.

Gainesville Seminary, N. Y., 1861. AGNES PATTERSON.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

TO FARMER'S WIVES.

WITH your permission, Messrs. Editors, I would like to say a few words in defense of "hired help," in reply to an article entitled "Hard Truths," which appeared in the RURAL of December 1st, and signed "A Farmer's Wife." I have observed that the *hardest mistresses* are those who were obliged to go out to service *themselves* when young, and now feel so elated because they are able to keep help, that they treat those they hire as though they were a much lower order of beings.

As a general rule, *good mistresses* have *good help.* Such has been my experience while engaged in teaching for four years, and boarding at many different places in the country, village, and city. If the housekeeper is *orderly, pleasant,* and *kind,* her help will usually be of the same stamp. Rather sympathize with the poor orphans, as many of them are, and teach them with patience and kindness, how and what you wish them to do, than to be continually finding fault with them, until they are discouraged in their endeavors to please you. Examine your own heart, and see if you would like to be censured and blamed all the time. If you get a girl that you cannot teach to do your work properly, better dismiss her immediately, than to scold incessantly. In nine cases out of ten it makes her worse, and spoils your own disposition, if it is not already too late for that. "Reverses of fortune" are very common, and perhaps one of these days your own loved and petted daughters may find it necessary to go away from home to obtain a livelihood, and then how would you like to have them treated as you treat your help?

Palermo, N. Y., 1861. RURAL READER.

LYDIA H. SIGOURNEY.

THE initials "L. H. S." have become familiar to all readers of poetry; the signature to many a pure and beautiful sentiment. We saw them in childhood, and we see them still. Only yesterday, "L. H. S." sang a song for the Union.

Ever since Mrs. Sigourney was Lydia Huntly, the young teacher in Norwich—beautiful in singleness of purpose, and sincerity of soul, her life has been that of a true and earnest woman, and a rebuke to the crazy creatures that, pen in hand, and skirts aloft, reefed to clear all such obstacles as household guards and gates, have gone agog, to set the wry-necked world aright.

Mrs. Sigourney has regarded her gifts as talents lent of God, and no mortal lives to say she has not used them well. Her volumes for the young, her prose and poetic works, would form a little library, not one line of which, so far as we can see, can she, when dying, wish to blot.

Some people fancy they pay her a compliment in entitling her the "American Hemans," as if there were anything in common between them, except a beautiful womanhood, a heartful nature, and the "gift divine." Differing in habit of thought and purpose of life, as much as in poetic character, Mrs. Hemans all glowing or all shadow; melodious as a bird, songful as a Syren; Mrs. Sigourney, precise, clear, finished; the one can pen a hymn for a New England congregation in a winter's morning; the other warble forth a wild-wood Tuscan psalm from the green depths of summer, that shall float away and be blended with the murmur of brooks and bees, and the rustling of the leaves. Mrs. Sigourney can unfold a sacred text, and give it the pure, white wings of poetic expression; Mrs. Hemans could tear a leaf of her heart out, and fling it abroad, all sparkling with recent tears. Mrs. Hemans could make the trumpet speak, and banners rustle in her verse; Mrs. Sigourney can weave a song for the triumphs of the Prince of Peace; Mrs. Hemans wrote, indeed, the "Pilgrim's Hymn;" but it was left for Mrs. Sigourney to write the "Pilgrim's Prayer."

Both gentle, both loving, both women in the noblest meaning of the word, and yet in all how different; our country-woman with less genius, as with less waywardness; more self reliant, with sterner views of duty, "apt to teach." In a word, the one was a child of Erse and Tuscan blood, ardent, impulsive, all emotion; the other a daughter of New England, with a large, warm heart, and a clear bright intellect, who deems duty a sacred word, and life a solemn and earnest thing.—*Chicago Journal.*

THE END OF ALL AMBITION.—To be happy at home is the ultimate result of all ambition; the end to which enterprise and labor tend, and of which every desire prompts the prosecution. It is indeed at home that a man must be known by those who would make a just estimate of his virtue or felicity; for smiles and embroidery are alike occasional, and the mind is often dressed for show in painted honor and fictitious benevolence.

INNOCENCE.—What a power there is in innocence! whose very helplessness is its safeguard; in whose presence even Passion himself stands abashed, and stands worshiped at the very altar he came to despoil.

CHILDHOOD often holds a truth, with its feeble fingers, which the grasp of manhood cannot retain, which it is the pride of utmost age to recover.

Choice Miscellany.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

WASHINGTON.

BY J. VAN LAW

"A LARGE circle round the moon last night."—*Extract from Washington's diary, Dec. 12, 1799*

THE century was growing old,—
The night was wearing to its noon,—
A monarch on Mt. Vernon stood,
And gazed a while upon the moon
A circle round the orb was spread,
That seemed a halo round his head

No other crown his brow had prest,
And yet a *Nation* bowed to him
With homage such as never yet
Has greeted robe and diadem;
And noblest hearts in ev'ry land,
Gave Freedom's sceptre to his hand

* * * * * *

When thrice that moon arose and set,
A hand had pressed that noble brow
And left a glistening coronet
As cold and white as virgin snow
The hands a million homes had blest,
Were folded on his pulseless breast.

Wherever sped the fearful tale,
A *sad and dirgelike* wail was heard,
That trembled up from ev'ry heart
As zephyrs stir th' Æolian chord.
Each turned to Heaven a tearful gaze,
And *blessed* the one they could not praise

Our Banner floated on the sea,
As o'er the waves our vessels sped;
But crape, around its folds entwined,
Proclaim that "WASHINGTON is dead!"
Then England's Cross to half mast falls,—
France shrouds her standards and her halls!

And thus, wherever hearts were true,
And love of Freedom fired the brain,
The Freeman would his oath renew,
And Slav'ry shook her loosen'd chain
And thus for him our flag unfurl'd,
Received the homage of the World!

My Countrymen! from sea to sea,
From land to land, its folds are spread,
Unchanged in all save *added stars,*
As when it waved above *his* head.
But hands, with Fraud and Treason dark,
Are laid on Freedom's sacred ark!

O! would his spirit might return,
To breathe upon the smould'ring fires
That in Columbia's sons must live
To make them worthy of their sires,
That they might join like bands of steel,
For "*Liberty*" and "*Common Weal.*"

Athens, O., 1861

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

THE WINTER TIME.

WINTER! Glad old Winter, is peculiarly the intellectual harvest-field of the farmer. In budding spring-time, 'tis true, odd hours may be devoted to intellectual feasts,—sweet morsels may be picked up during summer showers, when out-door work is precluded,—and, when the driving Autumn storm beats ceaselessly against the window-pane, a cozy seat in the parlor may be given up to literature; but in winter, when the fierce frost king comes down from the North, and takes up his abode in the fields,—wages fierce nightly warfare with the elements, the farmer seeks the shelter of his cottage roof, the cheery comfort of his fireside, and gives himself up to mental culture and the bliss of the home circle.

Search the "wide, wide world," and you find no spot so sacred, so loved, or fraught with interests so great as the home-circle of the agriculturist. The farmer talks nature's language, partakes of nature's bounties, breathes full inspirations of the pure air of heaven, and is thus assimilated to the character of nature's GOD. Who ever saw a true *farmer* who had not a kingly bearing? Neither is it a false idea of power. It sits gracefully, yet modestly upon his shoulders. All the surroundings of the farmer partake of the same spirit. Why not? A winter evening by the farmer's bright fireside affords more real pleasure than a life-time of the soul-distorting and benumbing existences of the city. See the toil-crowned hero, as he sits by the table, reading the RURAL, or other agricultural journals, to the noble matron by his side with her needlework. See the boys and girls with their books, the smaller ones with their toys, and the one in the chimney corner, jack-knife in hand, manifesting the first buddings of genius. And, too, the farmer's evening visit. The "*sovereigns*" discuss politics,—the ladies, domestic economy and the additions to the next State Fair,—while the children seek the kitchen, and enjoy "hugely" "blind man's buff" and the like. And the farmer's evening prayer circle. Enter reverently that holy place. It is not polluted by the presence of the grasping miser. The proud, cold heart of fashion is not there. The mean and sordid heart of worldly ambition is not there. It is the tribute of Nature to Nature's GOD. The calm, firm, reverent voice of the hardy yeoman breathes out its devotion. He who has become acquainted with the goings forth of his Creator where He is most frequently met, speaks reverently, lowly. The matron's voice of earnest entreaty is there,—the soul seems to throw itself at the feet of CHRIST a sacrifice. The gentle voice of youthful innocence blends like the notes of the dove in this perfect melody of devotion.

Farmers! GOD has thus surrounded you most bounteously with his beneficence. Do these blessings bring with them responsibilities? Yes, fearful responsibilities! You are not only to develop the resources of your landed estate; but within your homes, around your firesides, is *the hope of the Nation;* this you are to develop. Do you know that the bright-eyed boy who follows you in the routine of toil, and whose budding intellect is keenly alive to every cheering influence, is the embryo Statesman, by whom senates are to be awed, and at the sound of whose voice a nation will tremble? The mighty men of our time, Statesmen, men of Science, the clergy, philosophers and leaders of the press, are farmer's sons. Do you see in the little girl whom you caress so fondly, and whose perfect bloom of health, and bright sparkling eyes gladden your heart, the future woman who shall adorn the proudest circles of the land, and bless the home of a WASHINGTON, or ADAMS. It is every word true. There is thus given into your hand a high and holy trust. Your country demands, and all that is noble within you demands that you educate your sons and daughters. The common school opens wide its doors,—the Seminary is within a few hours, drive of your home. Both of these great interests, but especially the first, must receive your fostering care. It is your duty to graduate your children at the schools, but especially graduate them at the hearthstone. Enthrone love upon the family altar, and bring them up in perfect union. Thus shielded from the winter's blast, and under your protection, you are building an enduring shelter, to which their hearts may flee when chilled by the cold world which they so soon must buffet. W. P. H.

Alfred, N. Y., 1861

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

THE MELODY OF WATERS.

FROM the morning stars that sang together the ocean caught the key-note, and a thousand mountain rills and pleasant lakes joined in the harmony. Softly they do sing together, the falling rain drops, and to the music are set words of "home sweet home" memory. Then do the voices of those who love us whisper through the shadowy night, chanting the heart's own song,—those notes that, falling from the harps of Heaven, were lost amid the *spirit's* harp-chords,—and while the rain drops fall, the lips do softly say,

"Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home."

For, as thoughts flow softly in a dream, so do light winged visions float around us as we listen to the falling rain drops,—to the "rain upon the roof."

Laughing over the pebbles with a music clear as of silver bells, the streamlet hastens down the mountain side, into the vale below, and sighing there, doth lull the lily and the rose to sleep, and throw a spray, light as the breath of the morning, over the meek-eyed violets. On through the valley, with its glad music, it hasteth to tell the lake, the *pleasant* lake, of the concert it gave upon the mountain side.

Calm lies the broad blue water, but each tiny wave lifts its speck of foam to the sunbeams, and rings out a sweet refrain to the laughing winds, and weary feet that tread the shore rest, and sorrow is charmed away, and a mantle of peace falls softly over the weary cares and gloomy fears, for the music is very *soft.* A peaceful lullaby—a hymn of praise—is the music of the lake.

The ocean hath a minstrelsy. The waves mount upward and talk to the stars,—as if they told the story of all time, so deep are the moanings,—as if of hidden things of the future they spoke, so mysterious are the muffled voices,—full many a funeral dirge is chanted, full many a destiny revealed,—and listening, over the heart of man a tide of sorrow rolls,—for the feeling of awe and dread awakened by the mighty voice of the ocean.

In the voice of the waters there have lingered tones that could play upon the spirit's harp, calling thence music plaintive in its sad burthen, or light and gay. The captive in a strange land hangeth his harp upon the willows, and while the waves play at his feet, sings of the rivers in his own loved land. The chieftain pines for the light canoe, and the strong, deep tide,—the Indian maiden, for the glassy pool and the shining lake, and she longs to hear the dashing wave and the ripples clear, for the songs of her wild, free heart are echoed there, and the whole world loveth the echoes.

Then, mountain rill, ring out thy myriad fairy bells,—broad river, awake thy richest tones,—ocean, breath forth thy deepest harmonies,—for the Lord of Glory doth bow His ear to listen, and sometimes He doth set the gate of Paradise ajar, that the murmurings of the River of Life may flow down, and blend with earth's sweet music,—the melody of waters.

Hillsdale, Mich., 1861 BESSIE DAY

GENIUS AND APPLICATION.

SOME persons commence their career of active life under the most brilliant prospects of the highest success, and that full promise given at the outset fails of realization. The result is only a medium success. There has been a falling off from the judgment people had formed of what would be accomplished by so much talent and genius. At another time, persons have entered upon the career of active life giving the promise only of a tolerable and average success, and our expectations have been more than realized; the highest usefulness and proud celebrity have been attained.

Why such results from these various promises at the outset? Mainly for this reason; the one class of individuals relied upon genius, native talents, to accomplish greatness for them; the other class brought earnest and persevering application to their aid. Relying on genius, the former accomplished only the slight modicum of success to which good talents without industry can ever attain; the latter practiced from the first on the true principle that worthy and large success must have the price of thorough application paid for it. The class of individuals foremost in the beginning are outstripped by their less gifted brethren quite early in the race; and in the end, the persons of untiring application have excelled. Isaac Newton was a man of genius, but application to his chosen pursuit did more for him than genius, since he himself declares that what he accomplished was owing to *patient thinking.*—*Morning Star.*

WIT AND WISDOM OF SYDNEY SMITH.

A BOOK with the above title has recently been published in England. We give an extract in which the laughing philosopher shows up the extravagance and folly of the government:

"The world never yet saw so extravagant a government as the Government of England. Not only is economy not practised, but it is despised; and the idea of it connected with disaffection, Jacobinism, and Joseph Hume. Every rock in the ocean where a cormorant can perch is occupied by our troops,—has a Governor, Deputy-Governor, Storekeeper, Deputy-Storekeeper,—and will soon have an archdeacon and a bishop. Military colleges, with 34 professors, educating 17 ensigns per annum, being half an ensign for each professor, with every species of nonsense, athletic, sartorial, and plumigerous. A just and necessary war costs this country about 100*l*. a minute; whipcord 15,000*l*.; red tape 7,000*l*.; lace for drummers and fifers, 10,000*l*.; a pension to one man who has broken his head at the Pole; to another who has shattered his leg at the Equator; subsidies to Persia; secret service-money to Thibet; an annuity to Lady Henry somebody and her seven daughters,—the husband being shot at some place where we never ought to have had any soldiers at all; and the elder brother returning four members to Parliament. Such a scene of extravagance, corruption, and expense as must paralyze the industry, and mar the fortunes, of the most industrious, spirited people that ever existed."

THE highest charity is to pay liberally for all things had or done for you; because to underpay workmen, and then be bountiful, is not charity. On the other hand, to give, when by so doing you support idleness, is most pernicious. Yet you cannot refuse to give a street alms, if your charity has no other channel; you would feel that refusal in such a case was a mere pretext to save your money. But if your wealth is wisely and systematically given, then the refusal of idle appeals does no harm to the heart.

Sabbath Musings.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

SUPPLICATION.

THE shades of evening gather,
The stars look down on me,
As by my closet window
I lift my voice to Thee
Oh, Lord, my great Redeemer,
On Thee I cast my care,—
Thine eye is ever on me,
Direct me now in prayer

I thank Thee, heavenly Father,
For the blessings of this day,
And that I have the privilege
Of kneeling here to pray
From all the world secluded,
From toil and tumult free,
I here retire at twilight
And spend an hour with Thee.

I ask Thee for the pardon
Of all my sins this day,
That through my SAVIOR'S sufferings
They may be washed away
Righteous, and pure, and holy,
Oh, may I ever be,—
Yet gentle, meek, and lowly
As He who died for me

And now, oh, righteous Father,
I pray Thee be Thou near
In every hour of trial,
In trouble, or in fear
Direct my erring footsteps
In *all* Thy ways aright,
'Till, freed from earth's temptations,
I dwell with Thee in light.

North Cayuga, N. Y., 1861 NELLIE.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

CHRIST WITH US.

How consoling the thought to the Christian, that the same tender affection still animates the breast of our Blessed SAVIOR, exalted though he is, that prompted Him to leave His holy abode and become an inhabitant of this sin-polluted earth. No sorrows His followers are called to bear, but He has felt the same. His ear is open to the cry of the feeblest who loves His name, His hand ever ready to apply the healing balm.

Do we, at times, mourn the absence of our Heavenly Father's smiling face? Hear JESUS cry in deepest agony, "My GOD, my GOD, why hast thou forsaken me." Are temptations rolling upon us like a flood? Forty days and nights did He endure the assaults of the evil one. Do we mourn the departure of loved ones? See the Immaculate Son of GOD at the grave of LAZARUS. "JESUS wept." Are supposed friends unfaithful?—those we trusted proved recreant to the trust? One of his chosen twelve betrayed the Lamb of GOD to his enemies.

Oh, blessed be GOD, we have an High Priest who is touched with the feeling of our infirmities, for he was in all points tempted like as we are. Tried and tempted one, look up, hear JESUS' voice whisper, "As thy day, so shall thy strength be," and be assured that "these light afflictions which are but for a moment," if rightly improved, "shall work out for you a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

Chenango Co., N. Y., 1861. STELLA.

JOHN IN PATMOS.

NEVER was an exile so cheered in his banishment. Domitian sent John to work in the mines of the earth; but God called him to explore the deeper and richer mines of futurity and heaven. He does not seem to have had any human society in Patmos, but he was not alone! That ocean rock of the Cyclades, like Carmel in the days of old, was covered with horses and chariots of fire. Thus, the imperial edict, though unintentionally, sent him "to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly of the Church in heaven, and to Jesus, the Mediator of the new covenant," to hear and see how "the blood of sprinkling" was honored at the eternal throne of God, and all the godlike universe of being; for, from the "tops of the rocks" of Patmos, he beheld this beautiful vision of immortality, as well as the prophetic visions of futurity. Thus, this lone island in the Ægean sea was to him "a gate of heaven" *wider* than Bethel to Jacob, or Horeb to the elders of Israel, or Tabor to Peter, or the Sanhedrim to Stephen. Who would not submit to exile, even on a solitary island, for the sake of such revelations? John could well afford to let all the curtain, thus drawn off from the invisible world, drop its folds upon the scenes and society of the world.—*Philip.*

TIME—ITS IMPORTANCE.—The eloquent Robert Hall thus moralizes upon this oft-repeated subject:—"Time is the most precious of all our possessions; by far the greatest deposit we have received, in regard to what depends on its use. There is nothing in eternity but what springs out of time. All the good which eternity has in store, and all the evil, all the promises and all the threatenings of God in Scripture, all will be realized in consequence of, and in proportion to, the improvement or abuse of the present time of our probation. Time is the seed of eternity. At the judgment, the question which will decide your destiny will be no other than this—how you have used your time? And the less there remains of this precious article, the more valuable it should appear. The narrower becomes the isthmus that separates us from eternity, the more time seems to enlarge itself in moral magnitude. In a word, to squander time is to squander all."

LOVE TO CHRIST.—They that love CHRIST love to think of him, love to hear of him, love to read of him, love to speak of him, for him, to him They love his presence, his yoke, his name. His will is their will, his dishonor is their affliction, his cause is their care, his people are their companions, his day is their delight, his word is their guide, his glory is their end. They had rather ten thousand times suffer for CHRIST than he should suffer for them.—*Mason.*

DEW.—There is dew in one flower and not in another, because one opens its cup and takes it in, while the other closes itself, and the drop runs off. GOD rains His goodness and mercy as wide-spread as the dew, and if we lack there, it is because we will not open our hearts to receive them.

IN the world to come, our knowledge will be measured, not by the amount of thought-power we have, but by the amount of heart-power.

WHATEVER makes right living, according to the law of GOD, difficult to a sincere man, *that* is a burden.

TWO duties must run through a Christian's life like the warp through the woof, *blessing* and *trusting.*

The Traveler.

LETTERS FROM CALIFORNIA.

New Series.—Number Three.

Mule packing—Size of a pack-train—Amount carried per mule—How they are unladen—Packers in the evening—Their hardships and sufferings—Advantage taken by the mountain traders.

San Juan, Cal., Nov. 10, 1860

The majority of Rural readers, doubtless, are aware that *packing* by mules is the principal, and about the only way, by which the mining population of California, in the remote and almost inaccessible parts of the mountains, are supplied with provisions and other necessaries of life. The sturdy, hardy, indomitable miner, in his search for gold and sudden wealth, is not to be baffled by hardships or deprivations of an ordinary character. In their prospecting and exploring tours, they surmount the apex of the Sierra Nevadas; and again you find them delving away at the busy occupation of a miner's life, in some narrow auriferous gulch, or on some limpid mountain stream, wending its tributary and silent course through a vast ravine—lonely, dismal, and almost impenetrable. Talk of solitude! You find it here, mountainous and sublimely grand, with heaven-soaring mountains on either side of you, whose peaks never doff their white night caps, nor change their toilet, nor exchange vestments, but stand like stoic sentinels heralding the power, the glory, and the greatness of the Infinite God!

On every side one vast wilderness; shut out from the busy world, the miner pursues his exciting labors in his restless search for gold, deprived of all the luxuries, pleasures, and enjoyments of the outside world. He absolves himself from society, from friends, from kin, to pursue a calling attended with risk to health and life, in an effort to amass an independence. The miner spends his life in a cabin in some ravine, gulch, or on some mountain stream, year after year. In many places there are quite a number settled down in one locality, which they call a *mining camp*; but these mining camps throughout the mountains seldom attain any great population, without the diggings prove more than ordinarily rich, and then it is but temporary; for as soon as the ground is pretty well worked, and does not pay fair wages, the miner seeks new fields for his labor. These mountain settlements have all to be furnished, of course, from the great cities of the State, with the food they eat, wearing apparel, mining implements, and the necessaries of life, which, to the miner, are limited in number, but important in their character.

The supplies above mentioned, in the absence of wagon roads extending to many mining localities, have to be packed upon mules over the summit of the mountains, and down their steep, almost precipitous descents, these animals wend their way along the narrow and serpentine course of the trail. Mules are particularly adapted to this service, and their superiority over horse kind has been thoroughly demonstrated. Sure in their footing, capable of standing a great amount of fatigue, their value to California has been incalculable. An ordinary sized pack-train is usually comprised of 20 to 40 mules, according to the extent of the demand for provisions, &c., in the mining locality with which they do business. The train is generally owned by traders who have stores at the mining camps. Usually one trader owns a pack-train, and does the whole packing for the settlement. These pack-trains are generally managed and attended to by native Californians or Mexicans; their great experience in mountain packing gives them the preference over any others. A mule can carry from three hundred to three hundred and fifty pounds, and travel thirty miles a day without being fatigued. The Mexican mules are generally employed in packing in California, owing to their great powers of endurance. The freight is made fast to a kind of Spanish pack-saddle, called an *aparejo*, by means of ropes, &c. One of the packers goes on ahead with a mule, attached to which is a bell; the others follow on in line with instinctive regularity. When night comes, the *vaqueros* halt with their mules, generally selecting some good grazing locality; the mules come up in rotation, forming a circle, get down on their haunches, and are relieved of their burdens, which done, they go off following, or keeping in close proximity to the one with a bell. The packers build a fire, cook their supper, crack jokes for an hour or two, or play a social game of cards, and, after appointing from their number a guard for the night, roll themselves in their blankets and lie down to rest, the cold earth for their couch, the blue heavens for their canopy.

Verily, how little do those who live in brown stone houses, and walk on velvet carpets, or ride in gilded coaches, realize the fatigue, suffering, and danger attending the development of the great wealth of our country, of which we proudly boast. While at certain seasons of the year the life of the packer is full of novelty and peculiar pleasure, at other times it is fraught with hardship and suffering unparalleled. Many times a storm overtakes a train in the mountains; the mules succumb to exhaustion, lie down and die; the packers themselves, amid cold wintry blasts, at last, in the desolate howling forest, find the same melancholy fate,—the snow for their winding sheet, and their bodies food for wild beasts. Perhaps, as was often the case in early days, the supplies expected by this very train are needed in some far-off isolated mining camp, and thus the loss of the train entails misery and starvation upon hundreds of persons. Several years since, the miners on the Middle Fork of Feather river ran out of provisions during a cold and dreary winter, when snowed in on all sides from 20 to 40 feet deep. Three hundred started across to obtain succor and relief from starvation; before they found any, several of their number perished in the snow.

Again, some of the mules make a misstep, and down, down they go, over the rugged sides of the mountain, against rocks, trees, and other obstructions, to their final and utter destruction. It is a novel scene to pass a mule train upon a trail in the mountains; the tinkling of the bell, the "*hippa, mula!*" of the Mexican muleteers, echoes in the still unbroken silence of the forest, sounding strange to an inexperienced ear, and lending enchantment to the wild monotony of the event.

Many of the mining camps are hemmed in by deep snows for four and six months of the year, and provisions have to be packed sufficient to last the winter, while the weather is mild. When there is a prospect of provisions running short, and, in many cases, when there is no just grounds for alarm, the mountain trader takes advantage of it, and adds to the price of his goods, many times fabulous, unprecedented, and cruel! Thus the words of Cowper are literally verified in these mountain fastnesses—the last place usually where tyranny erects her throne and brandishes a bludgeon, and man with wealth and power is *there* as elsewhere, an oppressor of the weak, an abuser of his race. Yes—

> "Man's inhumanity to man
> Makes countless thousands mourn."

S. O. R.

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THE AGAPEMONE, BRIDGEWATER, ENG.

One bright day in the year 1854, being in the neighborhood of Bridgwater, we took it into our head to pay a visit to this mysterious institution, whose associations had been so notoriously disreputable. Previous inquiry had informed us that the head of the establishment, named Prince, was once the curate of an adjacent village, and distinguished for his evangelicism; but having been led into some extravagances, (in consequence of his success,) was suspended by his Bishop. He then commenced preaching in the open air, in and around Bridgwater, at first earnestly entreating men to fly from the wrath to come. Then he limited the time during which salvation could be obtained, and the number who should enjoy it. The next step was to constitute the church he had succeeded in forming, *the only true* church, and the climax was to proclaim himself the incarnation of the Holy Ghost, and, as such, deserving of the profoundest homage of all upon whom he bestowed salvation. This character he now retains,—this homage he now receives,—and is called "Lord" by all who are allowed to approach his august presence, or in any way connect themselves with him. Even tradesmen are not patronized unless they consent to open their accounts with the "Lord."

Having secured a sufficient number of converts, some of them possessed of wealth, missionary efforts were abandoned, land was purchased, and a building raised, bearing the title "The Agapemone," or in the popular phrase, "Temple of Love." Of the life within little is known. The external display is great. When the "Lord," himself, goes out, he rides in the State carriage of a deceased Queen, drawn by blood horses, accompanied by out-riders and blood-hounds, and having by his side his Queen, (not his wife, necessarily, for but a little before, his wife was dismissed to the laundry, and a charming girl from the laundry elevated to the throne,) dressed in the regal purple. As to what passes within the walls of the temple, people can only conjecture, and conjecture is not slow to draw the most horrible conclusions from the barest probabilities. Had we yielded a credulous ear to all we were told, our ideas of the place would have been associated with scenes not surpassed by the orgies of pagan Rome in honor of Venus. Infanticide, hatred,—in fact, some would have it to be a perfect hell, in which every foul passion found unrestrained expression. However, we wished to see and judge for ourselves.

About an hour's walk upon rising ground brought us to the spot. The buildings are not remarkable, except for a lion rampant upon the top of the chapel, sustaining a flag-staff, from which floats at certain times a banner, bearing the symbols of purity and affection. Walking up to a low building outside the gates, and used as a laundry, our steps were checked at the door-way by finding the eyes of half-a-dozen, not houris, but of the plainest women imaginable, fixed upon us. We do not say this disrespectfully, but we had dreamed a little on the way about "bewitching forms of loveliness." Perhaps the public imagines (in keeping with its other notions,) that here *beauty* is regnant. It is not so. These ladies might have refined intellects and kindly hearts, but we cannot find it in our heart to say other than that they were the most untempting forms of womanhood we ever contemplated. Their gaze conveyed the question—what do you want? We expressed our wish, a messenger was sent to the "Gentlemen," and we were told that they would soon make their appearance at a little gate to the left. There we took our station, and soon saw two gentlemen approaching, scrupulously dressed in white chokers and black kid gloves. Taking our card, the wicket was opened, and a step placed us within the limits of that mysterious "abode of love." We were, first of all, led through the out-buildings and shrubbery. Here, at a signal from our guides, golden pheasants ran from their shelter, and doves fluttered from their cotes, and played fearlessly around our feet. This we were told to regard as typical of the feeling which characterized the institution. In the stables we found the "bloods" and hounds before described, living in the best of stalls and kennels. When we passed into the gardens, a scene of exceeding loveliness burst upon us. The ground had been so skillfully laid out that the distant hills, while they formed a back ground, seemed to be the natural limits of the spot. On the side facing the south were a number of green and hot-houses, mimicking the great Exhibition of '51; those parts not glass, gorgeously painted, and surmounted with gilded minarets and spires. In these every clime was imitated, the choicest exotics flourished and bloomed, and birds of rich plumage and sweet song pleased the eye and charmed the ear. In one of these houses, trellis work ran up the sides and along the ceiling, bearing some of the magnificent and odorous parasites of India, which sending down their tendrils, burst into clusters of waxen blossoms, shaped like stars, and absolutely intoxicating in their exquisite perfume. Musical instruments of various kinds lay around, as if just abandoned by the performers. Into the chapel and "abode of love" we were not permitted, and narrowly as we watched, the only indication of life we saw was a female face for a moment at one of the windows. With one more glance at the ornamental gardens, with their mosaic of flowers and sparkling fountains, and a hearty expression of thanks, we left.

Our first thought was, that to one weary of the friction of the world, and possessed of wealth, this place promised the most perfect retreat that taste could desire. The thought had hardly presented itself before we began to analyze the character of the institution, and were not long in concluding that it, and all such epicurean realizations, embodied the most intense selfishness, and the most absorbing *self-worship*, the most degrading idolatry of all. In all others, some redeeming features may, perhaps, be found. To all usual objects of worship, some excellencies are attributed, which elevate the idol above the devotee, but to which he may approximate; but here self is the center and circumference of all. The flowers breathe their perfume, the birds utter their song, wealth contributes its luxuries, and desire is sated by a thousand ministers, not that the heart may go up to God in recognition of His wisdom, or in gratitude for His mercies, but that the *individual* may be *gratified*. Not a thought, not a deed, but has this as its sole intent. To him is *self*. What can be worse for human nature,—more contrary to the original design? Having no high standard of excellence, morality is forgotten; no duty, no high and holy work, *no mission*, the mind loses its vigor, and becomes hopeless, because aimless. Confined to self, there comes at last a crashing sense of *vacuity*, *worthlessness*, *loss*, under which some have sought to fly back again into the world, though penniless, and others have perished at their own hands. No more powerful light could be thrown upon the truth, "no man liveth to himself," and no more convincing proof could be given that "all things" are unable to throw around life that charm which springs from simple *usefulness*.

Since our hurried visit, some dreadful revelations have been made by so called "apostates," who have instituted proceedings for the recovery of their property; but for all we know, Prince still lives, with a sufficient number of dupes to support him in luxury and wantonness, and hitherto shielded from the interference of law by the privacy of his doings, the difficulties of escape, and the horror which haunts those who have fled from this misnamed "*abode of love*." J. M.

Middleport, N. Y. 1861.

Useful, Scientific, &c.

ELECTRICITY—BEECH AS A CONDUCTOR.

Eds. Rural New-Yorker:—In your issue of Feb. 2d, I read an article headed "The Beech as a Non-Conductor," in which I was much interested. It seems to me the writer has not given *the* reason why the beech is so seldom struck by lightning, or persons, or animals, which may have taken refuge under it. Any one at all familiar with the science of electricity knows that *green* wood is a conductor; *dry, baked* wood a non-conductor; *charcoal* a conductor, and *ashes* a non-conductor. These properties *beech* wood possesses in an eminent degree. Not only so, but the limbs of the beech are peculiarly adapted to conduct a charge of electricity silently from the cloud to the earth, or from the earth to the cloud, as the case may be.

To illustrate my idea, let a person take a charged Leyden jar in one hand, and present a knuckle of the other to the knob connecting with the inside coating, and he receives a *shock*; but let him, while holding the charged jar, present, instead of his knuckle, the points of three or four needles, and he will be surprised, perhaps, at the result; for instead of the shock as before, the electricity is conducted off silently, and no effect is produced. Now, let us apply these principles to the subject under consideration. Let us suppose a cloud charged with positive electricity (that is having more than the earth,) comes over an isolated, (or, if you please, one in the forest,) *green* beech tree, and what is the effect? Instead of a discharge of the electric fluid of which we are sensible by the report which we call "thunder," it is taken by the numberless points of the limbs and conveyed silently to the earth, the great reservoir of electricity.

In the two cases mentioned by Mr. Hustis the limbs or top of the tree were dead, and consequently non-conductors. In the first case mentioned, there were other trees surrounding the beech "uninjured and untouched." That is not at all surprising, when we remember that the *dry beech* was a non-conductor, and consequently, if not capable of conducting the electricity silently away, must be destroyed by the passage of the fluid over it. In the other case "the top of this, too, was dead, but not decayed in the least;" the fluid passed on, injuring the tree until, "finding a good conductor, it went down harmless." This effect I attribute to the cause mentioned above.

Let it not be understood that I think the *beech* a *safe* shelter during a thunder-storm, but it seems to me that our knowledge of electricity, and the conducting properties of the *green* beech, will warrant us in believing it much safer, under such circumstances, than a position in an open field or under any other tree in our climate. H. R. Taber.

Manoo, N. Y., Feb. 1861

Eds. Rural New-Yorker:—I can just as well account for difference of opinion on *Lightning*, as anything else: but any observing man who has roamed in the beech woods as much as we old settlers have in an early day, (when our pasture was very extended,) to find our roaming cattle, knows that the idea that is frequently set forth by our "Lightning Lecturers," that lightning never strikes a beech tree, is *not true*. Facts are stubborn things, and cannot be subverted. I have frequently seen beech trees that had been struck, as many perhaps as any other kind of timber. Now, has not the height of a tree more to do with it than the kind of timber? The tall hickory is said to be a good conductor. I once saw where lightning had struck a very tall hickory of about twenty inches diameter, following it down within some twenty or twenty-five feet of the ground, then left the hickory, glanced and struck a scrubby beech near the top and shattered it so that it killed it. Now, if the beech is a non-conductor, and the hickory a good conductor, why did lightning leave the hickory for the beech. I once saw an article from a Kentuckian, who wrote that the best way to tap maple trees was to dig down at the roots—cut off a small root, and set the bucket under and catch the sap from the *root*. That was just as rational as to suppose that lightning never strikes a beech. Yankee.

Troy, Mich., Feb. 1861.

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SCIENCE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA.

Dr. C. Wallich, who accompanied the recent expedition to survey the projected North Atlantic telegraph route between this country and England, has collected some important new facts in natural history. His main object was to determine the depth to which animal life extends in the sea, together with the limits and conditions essential to its maintenance. He has proved that at a depth of two miles below the surface animal life exists. Here, where the pressure is calculated to amount to at least one ton and a half per square inch, and where it can hardly be conceived that the most attenuated rays of struggling light can penetrate, Dr. Wallich has not only discovered the minute infusorial Foraminifera, whose calcareous envelopes protect them from pressure, and whose organization is of the simplest character, but he has obtained, from a sounding 1,200 fathoms deep, a number of star fishes, (genus Ophiocoma,) adhering to the lowest fifty fathoms of the deep sea line, which must have rested on the bottom for a few minutes, so as to allow those star fishes to attach themselves to the rope; so that it is now established that in these regions of watery desert and everlasting darkness, there exists a "highly-organized species of radiate animal, living, entwining, and flourishing, with its red and light pink tints as clear and as brilliant as its congeners which dwell in shallow and comparatively sunshiny waters."

Doubtless others exist, for this is but a preliminary inquiry so conducted, and in time we may come to hear of a new submarine fauna, peopling these dark abodes, and preparing this subaqueous floor just as the land on which we now walk, once submerged, is believed to have been prepared.

The Young Ruralist.

ROBERT MORRIS.

Among the host of great and good men who proved themselves lovers of liberty, and the unflinching friends of their country in its hour of darkest trial, no one is more entitled to the gratitude of a free people, or more worthy of being held up for the admiration and imitation of American youth than Robert Morris, of Philadelphia. He was the great financier of the Revolution, and to his large credit, his immense wealth, his unsullied honor, and his consummate ability, the Americans were indebted for the means necessary to carry on the war, and bring it to a successful issue. Truly has it been said, that "the Americans owed, and still owe, as much to the financial operations of Robert Morris, as to the negotiations of Benjamin Franklin, or even the arms of George Washington." In the times of deepest distress, when the army was without food and clothing, and destitute of ammunition, when the public credit was so low that a soldier could not buy a pair of boots with a pocket full of Continental paper money, when dissatisfaction everywhere existed, and mutiny was boldly talked of in the camp, and Congress could devise no means of relief, Robert Morris was seldom appealed to in vain. Either from his own abundant resources, or by loans from his friends, for which he became responsible, aid was furnished, and the drooping spirits of the army and their commander cheered while their wants were partially supplied.

Robert Morris was a native of Lancashire, England, where he was born in 1733. His father, a Liverpool merchant, removed to this country while Robert was a boy, and soon after died, leaving him an orphan at 15 years old. Robert served a regular apprenticeship to the mercantile business, and at the breaking out of the Revolutionary war was a wealthy merchant of Philadelphia. On the third of November, 1775, Mr. Morris was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress, and his well known abilities as a merchant caused him to be selected a member of the Committee to negotiate bills of exchange, to borrow money for the Marine Committee, and to manage other fiscal concerns of Congress.

Mr. Morris never hesitated to become individually responsible for means required by the public service. An interesting illustration of this fact is furnished in his conduct in the December following the Declaration of Independence. For some time previous, the British army had been directing its course towards Philadelphia, from which Congress had retired, leaving a committee, consisting of Mr. Morris, Mr. Clymer, and Mr. Walton, to transact all necessary Continental business. While attending to the duties of their appointment, Mr. Morris received a letter from Gen. Washington, then with his army on the Delaware, opposite Trenton, in which letter he communicated to Mr. Morris his distressed state, in consequence of the want of money. The sum he needed was ten thousand dollars, which was essentially necessary to enable him to obtain such intelligence of the movement and position of the enemy, as would authorize him to act offensively. To Mr. Morris Gen. Washington now looked, to assist him in raising the money.

This letter he read with attention, but what could he do? The citizens generally had left the city. He knew of no one who possessed the required sum, or who would be willing to lend it. The evening approached, and he left his counting-room to return home. On the way, he accidentally overtook an honest quaker, with whom he was acquainted. The quaker inquired of him the news. Mr. Morris replied that he had but little news of importance to communicate, but he had a subject which pressed with great weight upon his mind. He now informed the quaker of the letter which he had received, the situation of General Washington, and the immediate necessity of ten thousand dollars. "Sir," said Mr. Morris, "you must let me have it. My *note* and my *honor* will be your only security." The quaker hesitated a moment, but at length replied, "Robert, thou shalt have it." The money was soon told, was transmitted to Washington, whom it enabled to accomplish his wishes, and to gain a signal victory over the Hessians at Trenton, thus animating the drooping spirits of patriotism, and checking in no small degree the proud hopes and predictions of the enemy.

Another instance of patriotic liberality is recorded of Mr. Morris in 1779, or 1780. These were distressing years of the war. The army was alarmingly destitute of military stores, particularly of the essential article of lead. It was found necessary to melt down the weights of clocks and the spouts of houses; but, notwithstanding resort was had to every possible source, the army was often so destitute that it could scarcely have fought a single battle.

In this alarming state of things, General Washington wrote to several gentlemen, and among the rest to Judge Peters, at that time secretary to the Board of war, stating his necessities, and urging an immediate exertion to supply the deficiency. This it seemed impossible to do. Mr. Peters, however, showed the letter of Washington to Mr. Morris. Fortunately, just at this juncture, a privateer belonging to the latter gentleman had arrived at the wharf, with ninety tons of lead. Half of this lead was immediately given by Mr. Morris, for the use of the army, and the other half was purchased by Mr. Peters of other gentlemen, who owned it, Mr. Morris becoming security for the payment of the debt. At a more advanced stage of the war, when pressing distress in the army had driven Congress and the commander in chief almost to desperation, and a part of the troops to mutiny, he supplied the army with four or five thousand barrels of flour upon his own private credit; and on a promise to that effect, persuaded a member to withdraw an intended motion to sanction a procedure, which, although common in Europe, would have had a very injurious effect upon the cause of the country; this was no less than to authorize General Washington to seize all the provision that could be found, within a circle of twenty miles of his camp. While financier, his notes constituted, for large transactions, part of the circulating medium. Many other similar instances occurred of this patriotic interposition of his own personal responsibility for supplies which could not otherwise have been obtained.

Allusion has been made above to the gloomy posture of affairs during the year 1780; at this time the wants of the army, particularly of provisions, were so great as to threaten its dissolution. This state of things being communicated to Mr. Morris, he immediately proposed the establishment of a Bank, the principal object of which was to supply the army with provisions. This plan becoming popular, ninety-six subscribers gave their bonds, on this occasion, by which they obliged themselves to pay, if it should become necessary, in gold and silver, the amounts annexed to their names, to fulfil the engagements of the Bank. By this means, the confidence of the public in the safety of the Bank was confirmed. Mr. Morris headed the list with a subscription of £10,000; others followed to the amount of £300,000. The Directors were authorized to borrow money on the credit of the Bank, and to grant special notes, bearing interest at six per cent. The credit thus given to the Bank effected the object intended, and the institution was continued until the Bank of North America went into operation in the succeeding year.

In the year 1781, Mr. Morris was unanimously appointed by Congress Superintendent of Finance, an office then for the first time established. No man in the country probably was as well fitted for this important task, as he possessed a happy expedient of raising supplies, and enjoyed the entire confidence of the country for punctuality in the fulfillment of his engagements. At the time of his appointment the treasury was more than two millions and a half in arrears, and the greater part of this debt was of such a nature that payment could not be delayed. But Mr. Morris was equal to the work, and the face of things soon began to change through his exertions. At the close of the war, Mr. Morris continued his mercantile pursuits; but an unfortunate speculation in lands robbed him of his fortune, and left him much embarrassed. He died at Philadelphia, on the 8th of May, 1806, in the seventy-third year of his age.

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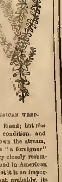
AN AMERICAN WEED IN ENGLAND.

An aquatic weed, said to be a native of this country, is causing a great deal of trouble in the small streams of England, and even in the Thames, threatening to seriously impede navigation, and creating a good deal of anxiety. It is called the *Anacharis alsinastrum*, but is commonly known as the American weed. It is thought to have been brought from this country adhering to sticks of timber that had been rafted down some of our streams. It throws out roots and branches even when floating, and when stopped by any obstruction, soon forms fields, to the dismay of navigators. We do not think this plant can be found in the Northern States, but it may grow South. When Mr. Wood's new work on the Flora of the Southern States is published, we may obtain some knowledge in regard to it.

Mrs. S. C. Hall, writing from Ensham, on the upper Thames, says:—"It is in this neighborhood we begin to perceive the dangerous results of the recent and rapid growth of the weed, *Anacharis alsinastrum*, commonly called "the American weed." It has not been known in England more than ten years; but during that brief period it has spread so extensively—almost universally—through every district of our island, as very frequently to affect the traffic of rivers and canals, to impede the currents of minor streams, and even to fill up isolated ponds. It has already rendered the Thames, in some parts, almost impassable without difficulty.

A small pamphlet, written by William Marshall, Esq., of Ely, gives its history as far as it can be given. "The intruder is so unlike any other water-plant, that it may be at once recognized by its leaves growing *in threes*, round a slender stringy stem. The color of the plant is a deep green; the leaves are about half an inch long, by an eighth wide, egg-shaped at the point, and *beset with minute teeth, which cause them to cling*. The stems are *very brittle*, so that whenever the plant is disturbed, fragments are broken off. Although, at present, it cannot propagate itself by seed, (all the flowers being male,) its powers of increase are prodigious, as every fragment is capable of becoming an independent plant, producing roots and stems, and extending itself indefinitely in every direction. Most of our water-plants require, in order to their increase, to be rooted in the bottom or sides of the river or drain in which they are found; but *this* is independent altogether of that condition, and *actually grows as it travels* slowly down the stream, *after being cut*." That this weed is "a foreigner" there can be no doubt. Weeds very closely resembling, if not identical with it, are found in American rivers. Mr. Marshall is of opinion that it is an importation from North America; and that, probably, its first visit was paid to us in a load of American timber. He considers that all attempts to "get rid of it" must be futile; *that it never can be eradicated*; and that all we shall be able to do is to "keep it down." Its rapid spread is one of the marvels of nature. It is becoming a serious evil; the Commissioners of the Thames should lose no time in grappling with the common enemy."



American Weed.

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There are some who refuse a favor so graciously as to please us; and there are others who confer an obligation so clumsily, that they please us less by the measure than they disgust us by the manner of a kindness, as puzzling to our feelings as the politeness of one who, if we had dropped our handkerchief, should present it to us with a pair of tongs.

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Good service is prompt service. It ceases to be a favor when he upon whom the service is conferred has lost in patience and hope deferred what he might have bestowed in love and gratitude.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Harper's New Monthly Magazine—Harper & Bros.
Fine Imported Flower Seeds—Jas. Vick.
Roe's Western Reserve Premium Cheese Vat—Roe & Blair
Astor House, New York.
Apple Trees for Sale—C H Rogers.
Apple Seeds—J. D. Conklin.
Farm for Sale—C H Rogers.
Superior Flower and Vegetable Seed—McElwain Bros.
Raspberry Plants—Chas. Lyon.
Local Agents Wanted—E C Frost.
A Good Business Chance—Agents Wanted.
Gardner Wanted—James Smith.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Brown's Troches for Coughs.

Rural New-Yorker.

NEWS DEPARTMENT.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., FEBRUARY 23, 1861.

DOMESTIC NEWS.

Affairs at Washington.

THE Government has official information from the Collector at New Orleans, notifying that duties on goods passing up the river will be collected at New Orleans in behalf of the Treasury of Louisiana.

The President received a telegram from Mobile, announcing the maltreatment of the British Consul there. Lord Lyons has called at the State Department for facts.

The report of the Select Committee, of which Mr. Morris, of Ill., was chairman, gives detailed facts relative to the abstraction of the Indian trust bonds. Thirty or forty witnesses were examined, including Ex-Secretaries Floyd and Thompson. The latter is exonerated from any complicity in the theft; but he as well as former Secretaries of the Interior, are censured for the insufficient manner in which the bonds have been held in that Department, there being no adequate responsibility attached to the custodian. According to Russell's own evidence, he did not know at first where the bonds of which he obtained possession, came from. Bailey was an agent for the negotiation or sale of the bonds, and Lea was an intermediate party between Russell and Bailey. It was also ascertained that Mr. Floyd gave acceptances to the amount of nearly $7,000,000, or from $2,000,000 to $3,000,000 more than Russell, Majors & Co. ever loaned, while these contractors received all the money that was due them.

The President has issued a proclamation declaring that an extraordinary occasion requires the Senate to convene for the transaction of business on the 4th of March at noon that day, viz: to receive and act upon such communications as may be made to it by the Executive. The proclamation is in accordance with usage, and to enable the incoming President to nominate for confirmation the members of his Cabinet.

The Secretary of the Treasury says in a letter to Mr. Sherman, the liabilities due, and to fall due before the 4th March next, are nearly $10,000,000. The accruing revenue will, it is estimated, net about $2,000,000, leaving $8,000,000 to be borrowed. There is in the Treasury, subject to draft and letter, more than $5,000,000, while drafts to about $2,000,000 are unanswered. The short time to elapse before the close of the present session renders it indispensable for the Secretary to advertise for a loan. An appropriation of $200,000 is asked for to replace the ordnance, ammunition, &c., which has been seized at various Southern ports.

The session of the Sub-Committee of the Peace Conference lasted till midnight on the 14th, and was at times stormy. Guthrie's proposition was substantially that of the Kentucky Legislature, and was finally carried with the proviso, that no territory shall be hereafter acquired without the approval of three-fourths of the Senate.

Investigations of fraud upon the Congressional library reveal most extraordinary peculations on the part of the seceding members. They have gone off loaded down with valuable books, the property of the United States, in utter disregard of the commonest rules of decency.

Letters received on the 15th from the South give assurances of a reaction in the secession excitement, and state that hopes of an amicable adjustment of the difficulties are strengthened. The exertions of the officers of the Provisional Government are expected to be given in favor of a settlement. The announcement is made from sources entitled to such confidence that apprehensions of trouble at Washington are removed.

Some Postmasters recently appointed in the seceding States, decline to take the oath to support the Constitution of the United States. Of course the offices will have to be discontinued, if persons cannot be found to take and hold them according to law.

Advices from Colville Depot, Dec. 23, represent the English and American Northwestern boundary commissioners as progressing satisfactorily. The first stone of the final monument of the boundary was laid October 25th. The chief commissioner has started for home.

Special Agent Jones, dispatched by Secretary Dix to New Orleans, has satisfied himself that the revenue cutter McClelland was surrendered to the authorities of Louisiana through complicity between Collector Hatch and Capt. Brushwood, before the ordinance of secession.

It is understood that delegations from Virginia, North Carolina and Missouri, will vote against the report of the Peace Conference. Maryland, Kentucky, and Tennessee will go for it. It will probably be adopted by a majority of the States represented in the Conference. The telegraph this (Monday) morning says that those who were most hopeful of beneficial results from the Peace Conference are beginning to despair, and some of the Commissioners have advised their distant friends accordingly.

Lieutenant Gilman, one of the officers in command of Fort Pickens, arrived at Washington on the 13th inst., with dispatches from Lieutenant Slemmer and the commander of the vessels off Pensacola, to the government. He left Pensacola on Saturday evening, having received a passport from Major Chase, who is in command of the Florida troops. He says the following vessels are off the harbor: the Brooklyn, Sabine, St. Louis, Macedonian and Wyandotte. The Brooklyn did not land her supplies for Fort Pickens, Lieut. Slemmer having notified them that he had ample supplies for three months. There are 1,200 troops at Pensacola, and it is all that Maj. Chase and others in command can do to restrain them. Lieut. Gilman says he would not be surprised if an attack was made at any moment. The health of the officers and men on board the vessels is good.

The Supreme Court of the United States, recently, in the California land case, established an important principle as to that State, in effect that when a claimant has obtained a confirmation of title and a patent, the adverse party in possession cannot in an action resist the title of the patentee.

Congressional Proceedings.

SENATE.—Mr. Foote offered a resolution that a committee of three Senators be appointed to make arrangements for the inauguration of the President elect. Adopted.

The Naval Appropriation bill was then taken up. Mr. Hale offered an amendment, to build 7 steam sloops of war. Carried. Yeas, 30; nays, 18. Several appropriations for the Pensacola Yard were struck out.

Mr. Holt offered an amendment repealing the act preventing the purchase of patented articles.

Mr. Pierce proposed to amend—"except arms." Agreed to, and amendment carried.

Vice President Breckinridge being sick on the 16th, the Secretary called the Senate to order. On motion of Mr. Powell, Mr. Foote took the chair.

Mr. Hale said that he had been asked by the unanimous request of the naval committee, that the vote excusing Mr. Thompson from serving on the naval committee be re-considered. The vote was re-considered, and Mr. Thompson was not excused.

The resolution for printing 25,000 additional copies of the agricultural report from the patent office was passed.

The bill providing no extra numbers of any document to be printed without a joint resolution of both Houses was passed.

The bill to carry out the treaty with New Grenada was passed.

The Tariff bill was taken up, the question being on Mr. Seward's amendment extending the time when duties shall be paid to three years. The effect is to leave the system as it is now, and was, after some discussion, agreed to—yeas, 25; nays, 18. Mr. Seward moved to strike out all in the bill relating to the warehousing system. Agreed to. Adjourned.

HOUSE.—Mr. McClernand introduced a resolution which was adopted, reciting that by the seizure of the Mint, Moneys, Custom House, &c., by the revolutionary authorities of Louisiana, the United States are put at defiance; and calling on the President, if not incompatible with the public interest, for all the facts in the case, and what steps, if any, have been taken or contemplated, to recover property.

Mr. Sickles offered a resolution recommending the celebration of the 22d as a National Holiday. Adopted.

On the 13th inst., the House opened with prayer by Chaplain Stockton, in which he said;

"Bless the outgoing Administration; may it close its labors in peace, without further violence and without any stain of blood, and we pray for the incoming Administration—that Thy blessing may rest on the President elect in his journey hitherward; that Thy good Providence may be around him day and night, guarding him at every step; and we pray that he may be peacefully and happily inaugurated, and afterward by pure, wise and good counsels, that he may administer the government in such a manner as that Thy name may be glorified and the welfare of the people, in all their relations, be advanced, and that an example of civil and religious liberty be followed in all the world."

The Senate was notified of the readiness of the House to have the Electoral votes counted. The Senate entered with tellers and other officials, and took stations; and after a short address from Mr. Breckinridge, he opened the different certificates, which were read by the Secretary of the Senate.

The reading of all the Electoral votes having been completed, the tellers reported the result, whereupon the Vice President, rising, said:

"*Abraham Lincoln, of Illinois*, having received a majority of the whole number of Electoral votes, is duly elected President of the United States for four years, commencing on March 4th, 1861; and Hannibal Hamlin, of Maine, having received a majority of the whole number of Electoral votes, is duly elected Vice President of the United States, for the same time."

A committee was appointed in conjunction with the Senate, to wait on and notify the President elect of his election.

A debate took place on the amendment to the postal bill, increasing the pay of route agents $1,000 per annum. Passed.

The amendment to the deficiency bill in controversy between the two Houses having been settled through the Committee of Conference, the Senate receded from the appropriation of $300,000 for carrying into effect the contract of the Navy Department with A. W. Thompson, for certain harbor and coal privileges on the Chiriqui isthmus.

The House adopted the report of the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing amendments of the Legislative and Executive and Judicial appropriation bill. By this the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to discontinue refining at the Mint whenever considered expedient, but leaves the place for coining as it is now. These passed the Senate. Adjourned.

Legislature of New York.

SENATE.—The bill to authorize the State indorsement to United States bonds, came up for a third reading. Mr. Spinola moved to recommit, and advanced an opinion that as at present drawn, it was in conflict with the Constitution. After some debate, the bill was passed—17 ayes, 7 nays.

The bill to appropriate $50,000 for the relief of the people of Kansas, came up from the Assembly. After some discussion the bill was read a third time and passed—22 ayes, 5 nays.

The Senate concurred in the joint-resolution appointing a Committee to meet President Lincoln; when a communication from the Governor was received, announcing the declension of Mr. Weed to serve as Commissioner. The resolution of the Assembly appointing Francis Granger Commissioner to Washington in place of Thurlow Weed, was called up. On motion of Mr. Truman, it was laid on the table—15 to 13.

Mr. Conolly moved to request a report from the Long Island Railroad Company, of all its business, stockholders, &c., stating as the reason for the resolution that the officers of the road had refused to show their stock books to the shareholders. Adopted.

The President appointed Senators Ferry, Ketchum, and Conolly a Select Committee on the part of the Senate, to make arrangements for the reception of the President. Adjourned.

ASSEMBLY.—Mr Doty, Private Secretary to Governor Morgan, presented a communication from the Governor, transmitting a letter from President Lincoln, as follows:

SPRINGFIELD, Feb. 4, 1861.

SIR:—Your letter of the 30th ult., inviting me, on behalf of the Legislature of New York, to pass through that State *en route* to Washington, and tendering me the hospitalities of her people, has been duly received. With feelings of deep gratitude to you and them for this testimonial of regard and esteem, I beg you to notify them that I accept the invitation so kindly extended.

Your obedient servant, A. LINCOLN.

P. S.—Please let ceremonies be only such as to occupy as little time as possible. A. L.

To His Excellency, E. D. Morgan, Governor of New York.

Gov. Morgan, in communicating the letter, stated that Mr. Lincoln would be in Albany next Monday, and he had delegated a portion of his Staff to meet him at Buffalo and escort him to the Capital.

Mr. Bait moved the appointment of a Joint-Committee of five from the House, and three from the Senate, to make preparations for the reception of the President elect. Carried.

Messrs. Ball, Ferry, Pendergast, Bargan, and Provost, were appointed on the part of the House.

The bill appropriating $50,000 to the relief of the suffering in Kansas was passed—ayes 88, nays 22.

Concurrent resolutions appointing Francis Granger, Commissioner to Washington, in place of Thurlow Weed, declined, were called up and adopted.

The Senate bill to enable the United States Government to raise money on their bonds, was reported favorably. On motion of Mr. Robinson, the bill was read a third time and passed—89 to 3. Adjourned.

The Secession Movement.

LOUISIANA.—The State Convention adjourned on the 12th, until the 4th of March, to await the action of the Southern Congress.

TENNESSEE.—As far as heard from, all the Union candidates are elected by overwhelming majorities. The Convention is defeated by a very large vote.

ALABAMA.—Standing Committees were announced on the 12th, in the Congress of the Southern Confederacy.

A dispatch was received from the Louisiana Convention, opposing the election of Davis and Stephens.

A resolution was referred continuing Custom House officers in office.

A resolution that, as soon as the President is inaugurated, Commissioners be sent to the Government of the United States, was referred.

During the secret session, resolutions were passed taking charge of all questions or difficulties now existing between Sovereign States and the Southern Confederacy and the United States, relating to the occupation of forts, arsenals, navy yards, and other public establishments, and the President was directed to communicate this resolution to the Governors of States.

Congress appointed a committee of six to make arrangements for the inauguration, which was to come off on the 18th inst.

An official copy of the Texan ordinance was presented, with the credentials of the delegates, one of whom has arrived. Objection was made to its reception, on the ground of its not being ratified. Mr. Grigg, of Texas, was invited to take a seat.

An act was passed in secret session continuing Custom House officers in office until the first of April, and requiring them to take an oath of fealty to the Provisional Government.

The Secretary of the Treasury was instructed to report a plan for reducing the expenses of collecting the revenue 20 per cent.

TEXAS.—The Texas Convention passed an ordinance favoring the speedy foundation of a Southern Confederacy. It elected seven delegates to the Southern Congress.

VIRGINIA.—The returns from twenty counties in Virginia, show a much larger vote in favor of the Union, than the entire vote for secession in all the State.

A joint resolution will be offered in the Virginia Convention, requesting Messrs. Hunter and Mason to resign their seats in the United States Senate, on the ground that their secession sentiments do not represent the voice of Virginia.

The State Convention met at Richmond on the 13th inst. John Janney, of London, was elected President, and made a Union speech, but said Virginia would insist on her rights as the condition of remaining in the Confederacy.

Movements of the President Elect.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, the President elect, left his home in Springfield, Ill., on the 11th inst., *en route* for Washington. Large crowds, made up of all parties, gathered at the various railroad stations along his course of travel, eager to see and hear the man who is to preside over the destinies of our country for four years from the 4th of March, and to do him honor, and whenever time has permitted, he has addressed the Sovereigns. Mr. LINCOLN has not allowed politicians or letter-writers to draw out his line of policy, and it was thought that a development would inevitably be made in his addresses. We are inclined to the belief, however, that not much satisfaction has been obtained thus far by those who are most anxious to read his secrets. We give his speech at Buffalo, N. Y., the first in this State, where he remained more than twenty-four hours, and where it was hoped a leak might be discovered.

Mr Mayor and Fellow-Citizens of Buffalo, and the State of New York:—I am here to thank you briefly for this grand reception given to me, not personally, but as the representative of our great and beloved country (Cheers.) Your worthy Mayor has been pleased to mention in his address to me the fortunate and agreeable journey which I have had from home, on my rather circuitous route to the Federal Capital. I am very happy that he was enabled in truth to congratulate myself and company on that fact. It is true, we have had nothing to mar the pleasure of the trip. We have not been met alone by those who assisted in giving the election to me—I say not alone, but by the whole population of the country through which we have passed. This is as it should be. Had the election fallen to any other of the distinguished candidates instead of myself, under the peculiar circumstances, to say the least, it would have been proper for all citizens to greet him as you now greet me. It is evidence of the devotion of the whole people to the Constitution, the Union, and the perpetuity of the liberties of this country. (Cheers.)

I am unwilling on any occasion that I should be so meanly thought of as to have it supposed for a moment that these demonstrations are tendered to me personally. They are tendered to the country, to the institutions of the country, and to the perpetuity of the liberties of the country, for which these institutions were made and created. Your worthy Mayor has thought fit to express the hope that I may be able to relieve the country from the present, or I should say the threatened, difficulties. I am sure I bring a heart true to the work. (Tremendous applause.) For the ability to perform it, I must trust in the Supreme Being who has never forsaken this favored land, through the instrumentality of this great and intelligent people. Without that assistance, I shall surely fail. With it, I cannot fail. When we speak of threatened difficulties to the country, it is natural that it should be expected that something should be said by myself with regard to particular measures. Upon more mature reflection, however, others will agree with me that when it is considered that these difficulties are without precedent, and have never been acted upon by any individual, situated as I am, it is most proper I should wait and see the developments, and get all the light possible, so that when I do speak authoritatively, I may be as near right as possible. (Cheers.)

When I shall speak authoritatively, I hope to say nothing inconsistent with the constitution, the Union, the rights of all the States, of each section of the country, and not to disappoint the reasonable expectations of those who have confided to me their votes. In this connection allow me to say that you, as a portion of the great American people, need only to maintain your composure, stand up to your sober convictions of right, to your obligations to the constitution, and to act in accordance with these sober convictions, and the clouds which now arise in the horizon will be dispelled, and we shall have a bright and glorious future, and when this generation has passed away, tens of thousands will inhabit this country where only thousands inhabit it now.

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THE English papers claim a right to navigate the Mississippi, which they say secession cannot abrogate. By the treaty of Paris, signed on the 30th of November, 1782, it was stipulated that "the navigation of the Mississippi, from its source to the ocean, shall forever remain free and open to the subjects of Great Britain and the citizens of the United States."

FOREIGN NEWS.

GREAT BRITAIN.—Lord John Russell, in a letter, tendered to the Cotton manufacturers, through the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the services of British Consuls in cotton producing districts, to assist in determining the possibility of obtaining from other sources such supplies as may compensate for the possible falling off under the present crisis.

It is rumored that England, France and Russia are on the point of coming to an understanding for a peaceable solution of the Danish question.

The American crisis is the leading topic in the journals, and among the business community. Mr. Seward's speech is published at length, and its merits freely discussed. The London Times applauds his argument that South Carolina is guilty of rebellion, and says they are the principles which should have emanated from the President.

Queen Victoria opens Parliament in person on the 5th, and Napoleon the French Legislature on the 4th.

FRANCE.—France has intimated to other governments the necessity of a Conference of their respective representatives, on or before the 15th of February, to consider the Syrian question, as the French occupation ceases in March. There is a vague report in circulation that orders for two hundred gun-boats have been given to private builders.

It is asserted that the Pope insists on the execution of the Paris Convention on the subject of the occupation of Syria.

It is reported that France has demanded explanations of recent warlike speeches of the King of Prussia. This is denied at Berlin.

Business in France is very dull.

The Army and Navy Gazette says the Emperor has resolved to construct, with all dispatch, ten iron cased frigates of the La Gloire class. This is no more idle rumor, but a stubborn fact.

The Patrie says it is not true, as some journals have said, that the French Government has encouraged Denmark to resist the demands of Germany. Neither is it true that France is organizing a squadron to be sent to the Baltic.

AUSTRIA.—Austria is raising a loan of 30,000,000 florins, in anticipation of taxes becoming due.

It is again asserted that a treaty exists between Prussia, Austria and Russia, guaranteeing Venetia to Austria.

It is said that the Emperor of Austria has decided to grant a constitution to Venetia, which will leave the government to the Italians.

It is asserted that Metternich notified Thouvenel that Austria will consider an attack by Garibaldi, on any part of the Austrian territory, as *casus belli*.

Austria is making full preparations to suppress the recent Hungarian outbreak.

ITALY.—The seige of Gaeta continued suspended. The cause assigned is insufficient means to carry it on. It is reported, via. Rome, that the first firing re-commenced with vigor on both sides.

It is said that Francis II received a letter from Napoleon, counselling the King to cease resistance. The King's reply was not known.

Out of 360 elections known, in South Italy, 290 favor moderate policy.

The latest from Gaeta says a flag of truce was sent from the fortress to the fleet, and the firing was soon suspended on both sides.

King Francis had sent a fresh circular to the Minister, stating that he was resolved to meet all the perils of his position to the end.

Returns from Southern Italy are favorable to the Government.

It is said that Prince Carignan has gone to Gaeta to negotiate for the surrender of the fortress.

Italian troops, in pursuing the reactionists, had entered the Roman States. Sardinia demanded a restoration of the soldiers made prisoners by the Papal Zouaves, and seized Bishop Sabino as a hostage.

Debats says the Italian Parliament proclaimed Emanuel King of Italy, immediately on assembling.

Nothing was known relative to Garibaldi's reported departure from Caprera. It is thought by some that he had gone to Dalmatia. In a letter to an English friend, he expressed an anxious wish to make a journey to England, but was unable to fix the time. He thanked the people for their moral and material aid.

SPAIN.—The Spanish Infant Don Juan has decided to relinquish his pretensions to the crown, reserving only the eventuality of being elected by universal suffrage.

DENMARK.—A ministerial ordinance has been addressed to all the functionaries whose duties are in any way connected with the calling out of the soldiers for the army, ordering them to take such steps as will enable them to execute as speedily as possible the orders for the military convocation already proclaimed, or for any other which may be made.

It is said that the Great Powers urgently requested Denmark to grant concessions to Schleswig.

INDIA.—The India mail has arrived with Calcutta dates to Dec. 22d. The Times' correspondent at Calcutta says there is not a contented mind nor tranquil tongue in all the Province, by the mismanagement of Mr. Grant. The $2,000,000 annuity spent in the indigo manufacture, have been this year withdrawn from circulation, and in a poor country like Calcutta, the consequences are naturally those of discontent.

CHINA.—The China intelligence is to December 15th, from Hong Kong. Lord Elgin was at Shanghai on the 8th of December, and is expected at Hong Kong immediately.

At Shanghi great alarm existed from reports brought in of the movements of the rebels.

Foo Choo was quiet. Disturbances had broken out in the northeast part of the Province, and one or two walled places had been taken. The John Adams, Niagara, Hartford, and gun-boat Saganaw, were at Hong Kong.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.—*Breadstuffs*.—Flour quiet at late quotations—28s6d@31s. Wheat in moderate demand at steady prices. Red Western 11s5d@12s4d; Southern 12s6d@12s9d; white Western 13s@13s3d, Southern 14s@15s. Corn slightly dearer, but difficult to sell. Some quote 6d cheaper. The range for mixed and yellow is 37s@38s3d; white 38s6d@40s.

Provisions.—Pork dull and unaltered. Lard quiet at 67@69s for good and really choice.

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THE LONDON TIMES ON DISUNION.—The London Times of the 10th ult., alluding to Lord Palmerston's speech at the recent Southampton banquet, says:—"The third topic dwelt upon by Lord Palmerston is the future, if, indeed, we may not say the actual disruption of the American Union. While Italy is consolidating, America is disintegrating. That privilege of a single entire nationality which Italy is shedding tears of blood to obtain, America is flinging recklessly away. The Southern States expected sympathy for their undertaking, from the public opinion of this country. The tone of the press has already done much to undeceive them, and if anything more is required, they have the assurance of our disapprobation from the person whose public station gives him the right, and whose intuitive sympathy with the feelings of the nation gives him the power, better than any one, to express its opinions."

The News Condenser.

— The debt of Virginia now exceeds $33,000,000.

— The French Distillers are making brandy out of coal

— Judge Whitney of Binghampton, N Y, died on the 14th.

— Hydraulic engines are being used to blow church organs with

— No less than $1,560,000 are invested in bee culture in Ohio.

— Several printers have recently been driven from South Carolina.

— John McManus died of starvation in Brooklyn, N. Y., last Sunday

— Coal now produces to the State of Pennsylvania $30,000,000 per annum

— In the tongue of the right whale there are from 300 to 800 gallons of oil!

— A score-and-a-half of Sioux Indians ask to be made citizens of Minnesota.

— The receipts of U S Colonization Society last year, from all sources, was $14,363.

— Cambridge, Md., was lighted with gas, for the first time, on Saturday night week

— The levy of French soldiers is to be 50 000 greater this year than it was in 1860

— There are nearly seventeen thousand deaf and dumb persons in Great Britain.

— A subscription is being raised in Virginia to purchase the birth place of Gen Scott

— There are confined in Auburn prison at the present time no less than 804 criminals.

— Snow fell to the depth of eight feet in the vicinity of Montreal, Wednesday week.

— Peru has just sent 16,000 bales of fine cotton across the Isthmus, most of it to Europe.

— The South Carolina postmasters are still ordering postage stamps from Washington.

— It is a singular fact that no divorce has ever been granted in the State of South Carolina.

— No less than 1,500 lives were lost by nautical disasters in the Gulf of Venice during 1860

— The total number of hands employed in the English cotton factories in 1860 was 397,190

— The deaths in New York last week numbered 367, a decrease of 36 from the week previous.

— Congress has voted to make the 22d of February, Washington's birthday, a national holiday.

— The number of lakes and ponds laid down in the map of Berkshire county, Mass., is ninety-six.

— England obtained from other sources than the United States in 1860, 890,000 bales of cotton.

— In some places on the mountains in Williamstown, Mass., the snow is six feet deep on the level

— A mass of copper, weighing 13,000 pounds, was recently taken from the mines near Ontonagon.

— The national debt of the United States amounts to about a dollar and a half for each inhabitant.

— It is reiterated that a National Convention will probably be the means of settling our difficulties

— The Grand Haven (Mich.) Clarion says that several cases of diptheria, have appeared in that place.

— Samuel H. Black was arrested on Friday, in New York, on a charge of counterfeiting *copper cents*

— Judge Lord, of the Land Court, St. Louis, has declared that religious journals are not "newspapers."

— Eighty seven arrests were made on Sunday week in New York, for violations of the Sunday liquor law.

— A lady swallowed a cambric needle at New Albany, Ind., last week, and suffers acutely in consequence.

— There are in England and Wales 300,000 Sunday school teachers, and 2,400,000 Sunday school scholars.

— The estimated number of persons indirectly dependent on cotton manufactures in England is 1,000,000

— A horrid Indian massacre of seven emigrants in Carson Valley, is reported in the news from Pike's Peak

— King Victor Emanuel has granted 200,000 francs in aid of the public schools to be established in Naples.

— John A. Rockwell, formerly Member of Congress from Connecticut, died on the 11th inst., of apoplexy.

— In the year 1850, as appears by the census, the number of slaves that escaped from the South was 1,011.

— The total number of new buildings erected last year in Boston is 964, costing in the aggregate $6,978,161

— A writer in the Medical Times recommends sulphur as highly efficacious in the treatment of rheumatism.

— Dispatches received by distinguished secession leaders indicate that an export duty will be laid on cotton.

— At the late Presidential election San Francisco polled nearly four thousand more votes than New Orleans.

— The New York Times says the sentiment in favor of enforcing the laws grows stronger in Congress daily.

— Rocky Mountain News says that coal oil has been discovered in the mountains, five miles from Cannon City

— The attempts hitherto made in Australia, with the view to the introduction of the salmon, have proved failures.

— It is said that nearly $1,000 was cleared at the Concert, in Troy, Monday night, in aid of the Kansas Relief Fund

— There is a great deal more feeling of animosity now than ever, in France, between the clergy and the government

— By letters from Liberia, December 15th, it appears that the Liberian Republic had captured two slave schooners

— In St. Louis last week there were eighty-four deaths, sixty-one of which were children five years old and under

— The Supreme Court of Indiana has decided the "Liquor Law" of that State to be constitutional in every particular.

— Fifty shiploads of cotton, valued at between five and six millions of dollars, cleared from New Orleans Monday week.

— There is a house in Union, Conn., tenanted by three families, where three births happened in one night last week.

— The depreciation in the value of slave property in Missouri, consequent upon the secession movement, is forty per cent.

— The measles are prevailing extensively at Baldwinsville, Onondaga county. Some 260 cases are reported within the village

— The citizens of Cortland, N. Y., are making an effort to establish telegraphic communication between that place and Ithaca.

— A pine tree was lately cut in the lumbering region near Eau Claire, Mich., which yielded over six thousand feet of lumber

— A drayman of New Orleans deliberately rolled a hogshead of sugar over the head of a little child recently, and killed it.

— From one thousand hills of hops planted one year ago, in California, one thousand pounds of hops were gathered last fall

— The quantity of Anthracite coal sent from Pennsylvania in the year 1860, was 8,600,000 tons; increase over 1859, 613,717 tons.

— Garibaldi continues to call for his million of armed Italians, who shall effect the redemption of the whole Peninsula.

— A little girl named Bockley, of South Adams, Mass., aged about 12 years, slid down a hill into the river on Monday, and was drowned

— Dr. Foster, who tore down and trampled upon the American flag at Covington, Ky., a few days since, has been fined $20 for that offence

— Russia is rapidly extending her telegraphs into the Amoor country, intending to reach the Pacific and the vast country of Siberia.

— The census of Missouri shows that State to have 1,407,536 whites, 113,185 slaves, and 3,902 free negroes,—in the aggregate 1,524,626

— The Amherst, (Mass.,) Railroad is again open for public travel after nearly three weeks' suspension, and a monstrous amount of hard labor in clearing away snow and ice.

The Publisher to the Public.

GOOD PAY FOR DOING GOOD!

AGENTS, FRIENDS, SUBSCRIBERS, and all other persons who wish to Do Good, and have no objection to receiving Good Pay therefor, are invited to give the following Premium List a careful examination, and decide whether the inducements are not sufficient to secure prompt and energetic ACTION. It will be seen that the premiums are very liberal—*the best yet offered*—and so arranged that every person who remits for Two or more Subscribers, will secure a *Valuable Prize!* Read the list.

GRAND SPECIFIC PRIZES.

PREMIUMS FOR EACH AND ALL—NO BLANKS!

In order to give *every* Club Agent or Active Friend of the *Rural* a Benefit, we have concluded to offer the following Liberal Specific Premiums to *every person* who forms a Club for the New Volume:

WE WILL GIVE

1. Webster's Unabridged Pictorial Dictionary (cash price $6,00) and an extra copy of the *Rural* to *every* person remitting $80 for Forty Yearly Subscribers to the *Rural New-Yorker*, (at least twenty of which must be new Subscribers, or persons who have not taken the paper regularly for 1860) previous to the 1st of April, 1861. The same (Dictionary and free copy,) to every person remitting $37,50 for Thirty *New* Subscribers, as above.

2. Lossing's Illustrated History of the United States (Imperial 8vo, with 300 Illustrations,—price, $3,50,) and an extra copy of the *Rural* free, to every person remitting $37,-50, as above, for *thirty* copies, at least *twenty* of which must be for new subscribers.

3. Macaulay's History of England, (Harper's Edition, in 4 volumes, 12mo, bound in leather—cash price, $5,) and an extra paper free, to every person remitting $30, as above, for *Twenty-Four* copies, at least *twenty* of which must be for new subscribers.

4. Macaulay's England, (same edition as above, in cloth binding—price, $2,00,) and an extra paper free, to every person remitting $25 for *twenty new* subscribers, as above. Macaulay's England (as above,) to every person remitting $25 for Twenty subscribers, old or new.

5. Macaulay's England, (in cloth, as above,) to every person remitting $21 for Fifteen copies, at least *ten* of which must be for new subscribers.

6. Webster's Counting House and Family Dictionary (Mason and Brothers' Edition, bound in leather, cash price, $1,50) *post-paid*, and a free copy of the *Rural*, to every person remitting $18 for Twelve copies, at least *eight* being for new subscribers.

7. Webster's C. H. & Family Dictionary, post-paid, and a free copy of *Rural*, to every person remitting $15 for Ten new subscribers, or

8. Everybody's Lawyer (bound in law style, price $1,25,) *post-paid*, [or, any $1,25 or $1 work, mentioned herein, post-paid, and a free copy of *Rural* to every person remitting $18 for Ten subscribers, whether old or new.

9. Webster's C. H. & F. Dictionary, post-paid, and a free copy of *Rural*, to every person remitting $10 for six *new* subscribers.

10. The Horse and his Diseases (Illustrated, bound in leather, price $1,25,) *post-paid*, and a free copy of *Rural*, to every one remitting $10 for Six subscribers, whether old or new.

11. Lossing's Pictorial United States (12mo, with 200 Illustrations, price $1,) *post-paid*, to every person remitting $8 for Five subscribers, three being new—or $5 for Three subscribers, two being new.

12. Cole's Fruit Book (price 50 cents,) *post-paid*—or, if preferred, THE SKILLFUL HOUSEWIFE, (same price,) *post-paid*—to every person remitting $4 for two subscribers, one being new.

[Persons entitled to any of the above books, and preferring other works of equal value, mentioned herein, can be accommodated on stating their wishes. For instance, any one entitled to "Everybody's Lawyer," can have "The Horse and His Diseases" or "Lossing's Pictorial," and *vice versa*. Any one entitled to Macaulay's History can have instead, and post-paid, either two of the dollar or ten shilling books, and any one entitled to Lossing's Illustrated History, can have instead, and post-paid, *two* copies of the Counting House and Family Dictionary, &c. The Pictorial Dictionary, Lossing's Illustrated History, and Macaulay's History are too heavy to send by mail—but all the other works will be sent *post-paid* to any part of the United States within 3,000 miles.]

☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞

STILL BETTER!

Extra Gifts for Clubs before April!

HAVING resolved to "keep the ball moving" until April—in order to attain a LARGELY INCREASED CIRCULATION—we have concluded to give such liberal rewards for efforts as will pay any and every one for time and trouble devoted to the formation of clubs. We therefore make the following offers IN ADDITION *to the premiums above enumerated:*

1. To EVERY PERSON procuring and remitting for Forty Yearly Subscribers, (half of the number being *new* subscribers,) to the RURAL NEW-YORKER, between the 9th of February and 1st of April, WE WILL GIVE, (*in addition to the Dictionary and free copy above offered,*) LOSSING'S ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES,—a large and beautiful Octavo Volume of 672 pages, splendidly illustrated, and printed in the best style on extra paper—cash price, $3,50. The same work to every person remitting, according to our terms, for Thirty *New* Subscribers within the same period. [If preferred to Lossing's History, we will give MACAULAY'S HISTORY OF ENGLAND, in four volumes, bound in leather, (price, $5,) OR a bound volume of the RURAL NEW-YORKER for 1858, '59, or '60, as preferred, (price, $3.)

2. To EVERY PERSON remitting as above, for Twenty *New* Subscribers, we will give as an extra premium, a copy of WEBSTER'S C. H. & FAMILY DICTIONARY, post-paid—the most complete and valuable work of its price published—or any $1,25 book, post paid, above mentioned.

3. To EVERY PERSON remitting for Fifteen subscribers, as above, at least ten being new, or for Twelve of which eight are *new*, or for Ten *new* subscribers, (see No.'s 5, 6, and 7 above,) we will give, or send post-paid, a copy of EVERYBODY'S LAWYER, or any other $1,25 or $1 book, above named.

4. To EVERY PERSON remitting for Ten Subscribers, whether old or new, or for Six *new* subscribers, as above, we will give, or send post-paid, a copy of LOSSING'S PICTORIAL UNITED STATES,—12mo., 300 engravings, price, $1.

☞ There, Friends and Strangers, is just what we offer and propose to perform! You can afford to make a little EXTRA effort, we reckon, to secure such LIBERAL and VALUABLE prizes. In fact, we shouldn't be surprised if you should trust some of your neighbors and acquaintances a few weeks, (such as you know will pay,) and advance the money, in order to make a "sure thing." You can decide.

TERMS OF THE RURAL—IN ADVANCE.

TWO DOLLARS A YEAR. *Three Copies, one year, $5; Six Copies, and one free to Club Agent, $10; Ten, and one free, $15; Fifteen, and one free, $21; Twenty, and one free, $25, and any greater number at the same rate—only $1,25 per copy! Club papers sent to different post-offices, if desired. As we pay American postage on copies mailed to foreign countries, $1,37 is the lowest Club rate for Canada, and $2,25 to Europe.*

☞ *Bills on all solvent Banks in U. S. and Canada taken at par, but Agents will please remit New York, Canada, or New England money when convenient. All subscription money remitted by Draft on either New York, Boston, Albany or Rochester, (less exchange,) may be sent at the risk of the Publisher, if made payable to his order.*

☞ BACK NUMBERS from January 5th are still furnished to new subscribers, so that all who send soon may secure the complete volume.

Please write all addresses plainly and carefully, in order that they may be accurately entered upon our books and correctly PRINTED by our Mailing Machine. All subscriptions should be well inclosed, and carefully addressed and mailed to

D. D. T. MOORE, Rochester, N. Y.

PUBLISHER'S SPECIAL NOTICES.

☞ VOLUNTARY AGENTS FOR THE RURAL.—Any and every Subscriber or reader is requested to act in behalf of the RURAL, by forming clubs or otherwise. *Now is the time* for its friends to manifest their interest to the paper and the cause it advocates, either by obtaining new subscribers, or inducing others to act in its behalf. If any lose or wear out numbers in *showing the paper*,—that's the best way to get subscribers,—we will duplicate them in order to make their files complete for binding.

☞ THE MONEY WE RECEIVE.—Bills on all solvent Banks in the U. S. and Canada taken at par on subscription to the RURAL, but our agents and other friends will please remit New York, New England, or Canada money, when convenient. Postage Stamps can be remitted for fractional parts of a dollar. For all amounts over $5 we prefer Drafts on either New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Albany, Rochester, or Buffalo, (less exchange,) payable to our order—and all such drafts may be mailed at the risk of the Publisher. If our friends throughout the Union, British Provinces, &c., will comply with these suggestions so far as convenient, the favor will be appreciated.

☞ ADDITIONS TO CLUBS are now in order, and whether in ones, twos, fives, tens or twenties will receive attention and be gratefully acknowledged. It is small clubs, and subsequent additions to them, which must make up the great bulk of our subscription—and hence we fully appreciate the efforts of those who form the rivulets upon which we depend to swell our general circulation. Agent-Friends will please bear this in mind, and send on the names of all who will join their clubs. The hard times and panic have no doubt caused many to delay renewing or subscribing,—but they, and their families, intend to have the RURAL, and we hope our friends will afford them opportunity. Many agents are furnishing the RURAL, and taking pay in produce, &c.,—while not a few generously advance the money. In all such instances, we endeavor to be as liberal to agents as they are to subscribers.

☞ LOOK SHARP, FRIENDS!—If those ordering the RURAL would write all names of persons, post-offices, &c., correctly and plainly, we should receive less scolding about *other people's errors*. Our clerks are not infallible, but most of the errors about which agents complain are *not* attributable to any one in the RURAL Office. People who forget to date their letters at any place, or to sign their names, or to give the name or address for copies ordered, will please take things calmly and not charge us with their sins of omission, etc.

Special Notices.

COUGHS.

The administration of medicinal preparations in the form of a *Lozenge*, is of all modes the most eligible and convenient, more especially as regards a COUGH REMEDY. "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*" or Cough Lozenges, allay Irritation which induces Coughing, having a *direct* influence to the affected parts.

Markets, Commerce, &c.

RURAL NEW-YORKER OFFICE,
Rochester, Feb. 19, 1861.

OUR market may be more noted this morning for dullness than any other special feature. There are but two changes in the whole range of articles quoted. Timothy Seed is 25 cents higher. Sheep Pelts have put on 25 cents each, for best. The whole country are now looking forward to Washington and the scenes to be enacted on the 4th of next month, when an impetus will be given to trade and commerce, or the nation plunged into anarchy and distress. The enigma will then begin the process of solution, and all will know just what is to be expected of them as citizens of the Republic.

ROCHESTER WHOLESALE PRICES.

FLOUR AND GRAIN.		Eggs, dozen	15@16c
Flour, winter wheat	$5 25@6,75	Honey, box	12@14
Flour, spring do	5,00@5,50	Candles, box	12@13
Flour, buckwheat	0,00@2,00	Candles, extra	00@14
Meal, Indian	@1 12½	FRUIT AND ROOTS.	
Wheat, Genesee	1,10@1,30	Apples, bushel	25@31c
Best white Canada	0,00@1,35	Apples, dried, ℔	2½@3
Corn, old	00@50c	Peaches, dried, ℔	00@10
Corn, new	00@45	Cherries, dried	00@12
Rye, 60 lbs. ℔ bush	60@56	Plums, dried	00@13
Oats, by weight	24@26	Potatoes	35@45
Barley	45@50	HIDES AND SKINS.	
Buckwheat	35@40	Slaughter	4 @ 4½
Beans	62½@75	Calf	4 @ 8
MEATS.		Sheep Pelts	50@163c
Pork, Mess	$18,50@00,00	Lamb Pelts	50@88
Pork, clear	18,00@19,00	SEEDS.	
Pork, cwt	6,50@6,75	Clover, bushel	$4,00@4 50
Beef, cwt	4,00@6,00	Timothy	2,25@2,75
Spring lambs, each	1,50@2,00	SUNDRIES.	
Mutton, carcass	4@5c	Wood, hard	$3,00@5,00
Hams, smoked	9@10	Wood, soft	3,00@3,00
Shoulders	6½@7	Coal, Lehigh	7,00@7,00
Chickens	7@8	Coal, Scranton	5,75@5,00
Turkeys	9@10	Coal, Pittston	5,75@5,00
Geese	40@50	Coal, Shamokin	5,75@5,00
Ducks ℔ pair	38@44	Coal, Char	10@12½
DAIRY, &c.		Salt, bbl	1,75@1,75
Butter, roll	13@15	Hay, ton	8,00@12,00
Butter, firkin	13@14	Straw, ton	0,00@0,00
Cheese	9@10	Wool, ℔	30@38c
Lard, tried	10@10	Whitefish, half bbl	4,25@4,50
Tallow, rough	0 @ 6	Codfish, ℔ quintal	4,50@5,00
Tallow, tried	8 @ 8½	Trout, half bbl.	4,00@4,25

THE PROVISION MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—FLOUR—Market 5@10c better, but the demand, both for export and home consumption, less active. Sales at $5,15@5,20 for super State, $5,30@5,40 for extra do, $5,15@5,20 for super Western, $5,30@5,50 for common to medium extra do, $5,45@5,65 for inferior to good shipping brands extra round hoop Ohio—closing with holders a little more disposed to realize. Canadian a trifle higher, with a moderate business doing, sales at $5,35@6,75 for common to choice extra.

GRAIN.—Wheat about 1c higher, but the export demand is materially checked by the advance in freights, sales choice amber Wisconsin at $1,24 in store, winter red Western at $1,31@1,32, handsome Canada club at $1,28, delivered; white Western at $1,40@1,50, red Long Island at $1,35@1,39½, inferior red and white mixed Western together at $1,25@1,32, white California on p t; red Tennessee at $1,35. Rye quiet and firm at 66@70c, sales at 66c. Barley scarce and pretty firmly held at 70@80c, sales Western on p t. Corn about 1c better, with a moderate demand for export and home consumption, sales at 66@67c for prime mixed Western, in store. 62c for new do at railroad depot, 62@68c for new Southern yellow, 66c for straw-colored Southern. Oats in moderate request at 36@37½c for Western, Canadian and State.

PROVISIONS—Pork firmer for mess and dull for prime; sales at $17,12@17,25 for mess, $13 for prime. Hogs dull at 5½@7c for corn-fed dressed, and 5½@5¾c for live. Lard steady, sales at 9¾@10c. Butter in fair request at 10@14c for Ohio and 14@19c for State. Cheese steady at 9@10½c for inferior to prime.

HOPS—There continues a good steady demand for consumption, and rather more inquiry for export—as the quantity of choice grades is now small, the medium qualities find more ready sale, the transactions are about 400 bales new, part for export, at 25@32c, and higher for strictly choice or fancy lots. In old growths there has been no business.

SEEDS—Clover continues in fair demand, sales of the week 2,000 bags at 7@7½c, including about 300 bags old, on private terms.

ASHES—Are without change, sales since our last 75 bbls Pot at $5,06¼, and 25 do Pearl $5,25.

ALBANY, Feb 16.—FLOUR—The business doing is only of a retail character. Prices unchanged.

GRAIN—Corn dull, with few millers of new at 53c for white, 53@56c for round yellow. In Barley, rye and oats nothing has transpired.

DRESSED HOGS—The unfavorable state of the weather, the difficulties experienced in effecting shipments either to the south or east, and the large supply on the market, causes holders to grant very liberal concessions. At the reduced prices sales to the extent of 500 head were effected at $6,44@6,50 for State, averaging 200 ℔s and upwards.

BUFFALO, Feb. 18.—The demand for Flour is moderate and market steady, sales 250 bbls at previous quotations. Wheat and other grains dull and nothing of importance doing. Dressed hogs dull, with a light supply.

TORONTO, Feb. 15.—The market has been only sparingly supplied during the week, owing to the variable character of weather and the uncertain state of the roads. Prices have to been steady, and the declining tendency of last week has continued. Fall Wheat is now quoted at $1,10@1,13 per bushel, the current rate being $1,10@1,12 while some lots have been bought at $1,00@$1,08. Spring Wheat is in liberal supply, but prices have likewise settled. The quotations are now 85@90c for the best, and 85@88c for medium. Barley is in good request at 55@57c. Oats firm at 27c. Peas 50@55c, and in good request.—*Globe.*

THE CATTLE MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 13.—The current prices for the week at all the markets are as follows:

BEEF CATTLE.	
First quality	$9 00@9,50
Ordinary quality	8,25@8,75
Common quality	7 00@8,00
Inferior quality	5,50@6,50
COWS AND CALVES.	
First quality	$55 00@60,00
Ordinary quality	40 00@50,00
Common quality	30,00@35,00
Inferior quality	25,00@30,00
VEAL CALVES.	
First quality, ℔ ℔	6½@7½c
Ordinary quality	5½@6 c
Common quality	4 @5 c
Inferior quality	3½@4 c
SHEEP AND LAMBS.	
Prime quality	$5,50@7,00
Ordinary quality	4,00@5,00
Common quality	3,00@3,75
Inferior quality	2,75@3,00
SWINE.	
First quality	5½@5¾c
Other qualities	5¼@5½c

ALBANY, Feb. 18.—BEEVES—The market continues over-supplied, while the demand, as was to be expected at this season, has dropped off to a considerable extent. Owing to the freshet, and the fact that the ice is dammed up just below the city so as to preclude the possibility of running the ferry boats, the bulk of the receipts over the Central railroad went around to the Hudson railroad, by way of Schenectady and Troy. The result was that, while there is only about 1,000 head on this side, there are about 2,000 at East Albany, some 500 of which were held over. Those in the Albany yards, destined for New York or Brighton, will be driven to Troy to-day.

PRICES—We quote the market extremely dull—

	This week.	Last week.
Premium	4¾@5½c	4¾@5¼c
Extra	4½@4¾c	4½@4¾c
First quality	3¾@3¾c	3¾@3¾c
Second quality	@3 c	@3 c
Third quality	@2½c	2½@2¾c

SHEEP—Supply large and demand merely nominal. We hear of a sale of one drove, over 120 ℔s, at 4¼c ℔ ℔.

HOGS—Demand extremely light and prices drooping. For a lot of still fed, over over 200 ℔s, 4¾c ℔ ℔ was paid. Corn fed 4¾c.

DRESSED HOGS—Neglected. The market is quite heavy, and prices have dropped to 6½@6¾c for best.—*Atlas and Argus.*

BRIGHTON, Feb 14.—At market—900 Beef Cattle, 75 Stores, 2,000 Sheep and Lambs, and 75 Swine.

BEEF CATTLE—Prices, extra, $7,50@0,00; 1st quality, $7,00@7,00, 2d do, $6,00@6,50, 3d do, $0,00@5,50.

WORKING OXEN—None.

MILCH COWS—$41@44, common, $18@19.

VEAL CALVES—$5,00@4,00.

STORES—Yearlings, $0@0; two-years old, $12@16; three years old, $14@17.

HIDES—5@5½c ℔ ℔, (none but slaughtered at market.)

CALF SKINS—10@11c ℔ ℔.

TALLOW—6@6½c ℔ ℔.

PELTS—$1,00@1,25 each.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—$1,25@2,00, extra, $3,00@5,50.

SWINE—Store, wholesale, 6@6c; retail, 6½@7c.

CAMBRIDGE, Feb. 13.—At market 372 cattle, about 300 beeves and 72 stores, consisting of working oxen, cows, and one, two and three years old.

BEEF CATTLE—Prices, extra, $6,25@6,50, first quality, $5,75@6,00, second quality, $5,00@0,00, third quality, $3,00, ordinary quality, $2,75.

WORKING OXEN—$70@150.

COWS AND CALVES—$30, $35, $45@60.

STORES—Yearlings, $0@0, two years old, $12@14, three years old, $15@17.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—1,750 at market. Prices—In lots $1,50@1,75, extra and selections, $2,25@5,25 each.

PELTS—$1@$1,25 each.

TALLOW—6½@7c ℔ ℔.

HIDES—4½@5c ℔ ℔. CALF SKINS—10@11c ℔ ℔.

VEAL CALVES—None.

THE WOOL MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—There has been a very moderate business doing since the date of our last report, and the market is heavy. We notice no essential change in prices. The sales of domestic fleeces for the week amount to about 60,000 ℔s medium to choice Saxony at 38@50c. In pulled wools we hear of nothing doing. There has been some inquiry for California wools, and sales made to the extent of 80,000 ℔s, at prices within our range. Foreign wools of all descriptions have been dull, and we do not hear of a single sale having been made.

American Saxony Fleece, ℔ ℔	45@48
American full blood Merino	41@44
American half-blood and three fourths Merino	36@40
American Native and one-fourth Merino	32@36
Extra Pulled	35@37
Superfine, Pulled	31@33
No. 1, Pulled	23@25
Lamb's, Pulled	28@30
California, extra	00@00
California, fine, unwashed	12@36
California, common do	12@20
Peruvian, washed	28@30
Valparaiso, unwashed	—@—
South American Mes, unwashed	18@21
South American Merino, unwashed	21@24
South American, common washed	13@16
South American Entre Rios, do	13@16
South American, unwashed	8@10
South American Cordova, washed	00@22
Cape Good Hope unwashed	28@38
East India, washed	16@30
African, unwashed	0@00
African, washed	00@00
Smyrna, unwashed	10@18
Smyrna, washed	23@26
Mexican unwashed	00@00

(*N. Y. Evening Post.*

BOSTON, Feb. 14.—We have to notice a comparatively quiet week for domestic wool and in prices no change since our last. The sales have been about 100,000 ℔s, including fleece and pulled. Foreign has been more inquired for, with sales of 800 bales Mediterranean, Cape and South American and 50 bales Peruvian at various prices as to quality. 200 bales Cape Wools have been shipped to England.

Saxony and Merino, fine	48@55	Western mixed	21@30
Full blood	44@47	Smyrna, washed	18@26
½ and ¾ blood	38@43	Do unwashed	9@17
Common	30@35	Syrian	10@23
Pulled, extra	40@48	Cape	19@30
Do Superfine	35@40	Crimea	9@17
Do. No. 1	27@30	Buenos Ayres	9@45
Do No 2	16@20	Peruvian, washed	26@30

Married.

ON the 12th inst., by Dr. A. G. HALL, GILBERT H. REYNOLDS and SARAH A. PARKER, daughter of RICHARD PARKER, Esq., all of this city.

Died.

ON Friday evening, January 11th, 1861, at home, in Newton Co., Mo., HORACE C., only son of JOHN A. and ELIZABETH W. THOMPSON, aged three years, nine months and twenty-three days, of congestion of the lungs.

IN this city, on the evening of the 15th, DOLLY WISNER aged 83 years.

Advertisements.

ADVERTISING TERMS, in Advance—THIRTY-FIVE CENTS A LINE, each insertion. A price and a half for extra display, or 52½ cents per line of space. SPECIAL NOTICES, (following reading matter, leaded,) Sixty Cents a Line.

. In consequence of its large and increasing circulation, we are obliged to put the last form of the RURAL to press earlier than formerly, and advertisements should reach us on *Monday* to secure insertion the same week.

APPLE SEEDS—A few bushels of first class, yet unsold at $3.50 ℔ bu. J. D. CONKLIN, Locke, Cay. Co., N. Y.

FOR SALE—50,000 Raspberry Plants, of the Doolittle variety, for sale cheap—warranted first quality. Address CHAS. LYON or CHAS. MOAL, Victor, Ontario Co., N. Y.

A GOOD BUSINESS CHANCE—Agents Wanted. $5 to $10 a day can be made. Address, with stamp, MERCANTILE AGENCY, Milan, Ohio.

3,333 LOCAL AGENTS WANTED, TO SELL Trees of the genuine King of Tompkins Co. and Wagener, the two best market and table Apples. Send by mail to E. C. FROST, Havana, N. Y., and get plates and terms free.

GARDENER WANTED—One that understands the management of a Cold Grapery, and the Cultivation of Fruit Trees, can find a situation by applying to JAMES SMITH, 64 & 66 Lloyd Street, Buffalo, N. Y.
N. B.—A young man, a *Scotchman* preferred. 580-3t

SUPERIOR FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SEEDS.—Our catalogue of choice and rare seeds for 1861 is now ready, and will be sent to any address upon receipt of a postage stamp. It contains a full description of the different kinds, with practical directions for cultivation.
McELWAIN BROS., Successors to Allen & McElwain,
Springfield, Mass. 580-3t

APPLE TREES FOR SALE.—60,000 Apple Trees of the most popular varieties. The trees are four years old, straight, thrifty and in good condition for removal. Would be glad to sell the entire lot to one or two persons, on such terms as would be satisfactory to the parties. The trees are very near to Frost's nursery in Rochester, and can be seen by calling on Thos. Smith, Francis St., near the premises. For further particulars address C. H. ROGERS, Palmyra, N. Y.
Rochester, Feb 14, 1861. 580-tf

ROE'S WESTERN RESERVE PREMIUM
CHEESE VAT,
ROE & BLAIR, Madison, Lake Co., Ohio,

Sole manufacturers for the U. S. except Vermont and the East half New York.

This Vat has been the longest before the public—the most extensively used and diligently improved, and is believed to be the best in the world. Well made, simple, durable and compact, it combines every want and convenience of the dairyman. The new arrangement for shutting off the heat and furnishing hot water is extremely simple, works perfectly and not liable to get out of order. Warranted to give satisfaction—directions for cheese-making by some of the best dairymen, with each Vat.

Roe's Patent Adjustable Expanding Cheese Hoop—a neat thing—warranted. ☞ Send for Circular.

AGENTS—DAVID LEWIS, Johnsonsburgh, Wyoming Co., N. Y.; STEPHEN THOMAS, Belfast, Allegany Co., N. Y. 580tf

FINE IMPORTED FLOWER SEEDS,
FOR SALE BY JAS. VICK,
Rochester, N. Y.

I HAVE this day (Feb. 19th,) received a fresh invoice of *FINE FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SEEDS* from Europe, embracing some of the finest varieties ever offered to the lovers of flowers. Many are new and rare. Among them are the following:

STOCKS—*Ten Week*—New Largest Flowering, 6 colors separate, or mixed—Emperor, large flowered. *Brompton*, (Winter)—Sulphur Yellow, new.

ASTERS—Globe Flowered, Dwarf Pyramidal Bouquet Flowered, Truffaut's Perfected, 16 colors, either separate or mixed, La Superb, New Crown, 4 varieties, separate colors, or mixed, Ranunculus Flowered, Chrysanthemum Flowered, 9 colors, separate or mixed, New Giant Emperor.

BALSAMS—Rose Flowered, 12 colors, separate or mixed.

LARKSPUR—Double Dwarf Hyacinth Flowered, Stock Flowered.

HOLLYHOCKS—From Show Flowers.

MARVEL OF PERU—Eight varieties.

SWEET PEAS—Seven varieties, separate colors.

PICOTEES—From Choice Flowers.

ANTIRRHINUM—Flower Alba, Striped, Brilliant; Firefly, Goliath—each color separate or mixed.

CONVOLVULUS MINOR—Tri-Color, Splendens.

CONVOLVULUS MAJOR—Purpurea.

GAILLARDIA—Picta, Josephus, Alba Marginata.

GODETIA—Amoena, Wildenowii.

PHLOX DRUMMONDII—Scarlet; Leopoldi; Blue, white eye, Alba Oculata, (pure white, purple eye.) All of these separate, or mixed.

PORTULACCA—Alba Striata, Caryophylloides, rose, striped with deep carmine.

PANSIES—1 quality; II quality; from rad flowers, from striped flowers, from light flowers, violet bordered.

BALL FLOWER—Ten varieties.

SALPIGLOSSIS—Variabilis, largest flower, Dwarf, fine.

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THE SNOW-DRIFT.

O, SWEET creation! cradled in the skies,
Crowning with beauty all the field's expanse,
Thy Parian glow and sculptured symmetries
Eclipse the wildest wonders of romance.

Thou sittest a monarch on thy Doric throne,
Carved with plinth, cornice, architrave, and frieze,
Thy architect a cunninger skill doth own,
Than wrought with Phidias or Praxiteles.

Toppling in pride above the garden fence,
Of this fair world thou seemest the fairest part;
Thy splendors shame the rarest excellence
That glows in Grecian or in Tuscan art.

Last night the north wind from his distant lair
Swept with mad fury down the boreal seas,
Piping a shrill blast on the startled air,
He tossed the snow and shook the shuddering trees.

The mountains made obeisance as he flew,
And smote their harpsichord of ancient pines;
He piled the multitudinous snow into
Ranges of mimic Alps and Apennines.

So here I find thee, Memnon of the morn,
Rising from out thy sea's unbroken white,
As Love's fair goddess, on the ocean born,
Rose from the waves on nebulous clouds of light.

How glorious if thy beauty, isle of snow,
Might here transfigured and forever lie,
A bright Atlantis in the world below,
Dropped from the broad blue ocean of the sky.

Unworthier fate, some base iconoclast
Thy flowing locks is waiting to destroy;
Perhaps thou'lt kiss the virgin earth at last
Beneath the vandal foot of some rude boy.

But though profaned and ravished on the plain,
The friendly sun thy spirit shall renew,
And the soft-footed couriers of the rain
Once more translate thee to thy native blue.

Knickerbocker Magazine.

The Story-Teller.

[Written for Moore's Rural New-Yorker.]

MAGIC.

BY EMILY HUNTINGTON MILLER.

[Continued from page 60, last week.]

CHAPTER II.

The old Newman homestead, where Thanksgiving gatherings had been held time out of mind, was a large substantial farm-house, built in the style of the old Puritans, with beams of solid oak that seemed as lasting as iron. No one had cared to change its old-fashioned appointments, so the parlor kept its dark heavy panels, its carved moulding, and fire-place with painted tiles, the great kitchen with its polished floor, its towering eight-day clock, and its open, wide-mouthed fire-place that swallowed up huge logs in its fiery throat,—all these belonged to a past generation, and yet they seemed well fitted to the simple dignity of the quiet old people who lived there. It has been said of so holy an old age as theirs that "as, sometimes when the day is done, the sun seems to hang for a half hour in the horizon, only to show how glorious it can be; so God seems to let some people, when their duty in this world is done, hang in the west that men may look on them and see how beautiful they are."

Clear minded, and still vigorous in body, Mr. Newman, the elder, seemed only resting from the labors and cares of life, while his wife, gentle, loving and beloved, though for many years an invalid, still kept her cheerful smile, and her heart seemed as young and warm as ever. There was no event of the whole year so often looked forward to by the children and grandchildren, far and near, as the Thanksgiving visit to grandmother's. Even little Jenny, the youngest and wildest of all the troop, was never tired of admiring grandma's fair, pale face and soft white hair, and wondering if it could really be true that Uncle William remembered when her cheeks used to be round and red, and her hair black and shining. On this particular morning she was almost beside herself with excitement; and when her father went out on some business, saying he should be at the door with the sleigh in just an hour, she was too impatient to wait for Margaret's quiet movements, but ran up stairs to dress herself. Margaret followed her in time to fasten the pretty crimson dress, and tie the little white apron.

"Margaret," said Jenny, trying to stand still for a moment, "do you think my old China would do better to carry than no doll at all?"

"I wouldn't take her," said Margaret; "a doll without a head isn't worth much."

Jenny gave a little sigh, and then bounded away for her shoes. In a moment more she rushed back with a scream of delight.

"Oh, Margaret Newman! what *do* you think I found in one of my new gaiters? Just the sweetest doll, and all dressed complete. That's the very first thing I wished for with my wish-bone, and who in all the world could have done it?"

Margaret smiled one of her quiet smiles, and Jenny exclaimed, "You put it there yourself. I just know, for this is a piece of that very blue dress you are putting on this minute;" and Jenny vented her gratitude by hugging her sister violently, and declaring her "the very *darlingest* Margaret in all the world."

Just as their preparations were completed the sound of sleigh bells was heard, and in an instant more a boisterous "hurrah!" from Fred announced that the sleigh was at the door. Jenny ran down to the gate, looking like a little Esquimaux in her many wrappings.

"I believe the birds are keeping Thanksgiving," said she, as the little brown things fluttered up from the snow as she passed, and settled with a twitter on the peach trees. Margaret looked at them too, and sighed softly as she thought for a moment of John and his little Mary, but her heart was always open to sunbeams, and straightway through its windows came these remembered words, "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and not one of them falleth to the ground without your Father. Fear ye not, therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows." And Margaret was truly glad.

Jenny and Fred chattered incessantly, and found new objects of admiration every moment. Now it was an old hemlock, heavily plumed with snow; then a clump of alder, strong all over with its coral berries; but Margaret and her father were very silent, and as they glided smoothly along scarcely heard the voices of the children, or the merry music of the bells, for other bells, some sweet, some sad, that memory was chiming in their hearts.

They were not the first at the homestead. Uncle William was there with his grown-up boys and girls, and his handsome wife, who kept her good looks bravely for a grandmother. Aunt Esther and her husband, with their two tall boys and a troop of young folks, with just enough fathers and mothers sprinkled among them to keep their stock of fun and frolic within proper bounds. Grandmother's arm-chair was in its accustomed corner by the parlor fire, and in it sat the dear old lady, with her placid smile of welcome for all; while grandfather stood near her, erect and dignified, his hands crossed on the top of his ivory-headed staff, which was his constant companion, more from habit than actual need. There were many words of greeting for all, questions to ask and answer, items of domestic news to circulate, and then, after a while, the boys, large and small, went out, according to regular custom, for a rabbit-hunt, in which they usually saw few rabbits and plenty of fun, and finished up with a grand game of snow-balling. As soon as they were gone, the older girls went up to the great front chamber to have a cosy chat over matters of special interest to young ladies from sixteen to twenty, while the little ones gathered in grandmother's room, and held a private thanksgiving for the benefit of their dolls. Jenny's new doll was formally introduced, admired, and christened, and installed mistress of ceremonies, by virtue of being the best dressed lady in the collection.

If you take a peep into the front chamber, you will find six fair faces nestling together around the fire, and perhaps among them all, Margaret's will least impress you as beautiful, yet your eyes come back to it again and rest there with a sense of quiet content.

That dark-eyed girl leaning upon Margaret's lap, is Louise Elmer, the acknowledged queen and beauty of the whole countryhood. While the rest are listening eagerly to her glowing account of a late sleighing party to the city, Margaret's eyes have gone around the room, and missed something they were in search of. This was Carrie Wilford, the crippled cousin, whose back had been so injured by a fall in babyhood as to make her a cripple for life. She seemed almost to shrink from the merry talk of the others, and feel that she was an unwelcome guest among them. Only dear grandmother seemed to keep a double share of love and tenderness for her; and when the girls bounded away unmindful of her, she never thought of following, but shrank closer to grandmother's chair, and folded in her thin hand the aged one, scarcely thinner or more shrunken.

"Where is Carrie?" asked Margaret, in a pause of Louise Elmer's chatter.

"Oh, she staid down with the old folks," said her thoughtless sister Bessie, "she'd rather be there, she is such a queer little thing."

Margaret made a motion to raise Louise from her lap, but she only pouted her red lips and said, "Now, Maggie, don't bring her up here, that's a good girl. She makes me so nervous, with her sober face and great mournful eyes. I feel as if it were a sin to laugh and talk before her, when she suffers so much, and is so miserable."

"Carrie is not miserable," said Margaret, "she is very patient, and even happy in her way, and we ought to take more pains to amuse and cheer her. The greatest happiness that is left to her is the love of her friends, and we must not forget that she needs love a great deal more than any of the rest of us."

There was no need of another word. Tears sprang into Bessie's blue eyes, and the quick-hearted girl started for the stairs. "Let me go, too," said Margaret, and the girls went down to the parlor together. There was pleasure as well as surprise in the lame girl's face, when Bessie rushed into her corner, and gave her an impulsive kiss, saying, "why don't you come up stairs with the rest of us, you dear little sober-sides?" Yet it was not until Margaret had added her earnest, "yes, Carrie, we all want you up there," and grandmother had said, "go, dear," with a loving little pat on the thin hand, that Carrie rose slowly from her chair, and came with her halting step up stairs.

How full of love and thoughtfulness every one seemed to Carrie, and what merry tales they told around the fire, looking into her face now and then with sunny eyes, till she almost forgot her misfortune in the joy of being loved and cared for.

Three o'clock surprised them all, and they rushed to the windows as a merry shout announced the return of the would-be hunters, red-cheeked, noisy, and "hungry as bears." They had caught two rabbits and left them for old black Judy's Thanksgiving dinner. The great table was soon loaded with the Thanksgiving feast. The huge turkey, browned to a nicety, filled the post of honor, and presided handsomely over the dishes of minor importance that filled up the board. Old and young were soon ranged around it, and for once Carrie forgot her usual petition, to be allowed to wait and eat at the children's table. Every heart responded in thankfulness as the aged grandfather bowed his white head, and offered thanks for the bounties of the year. There was a moment of silence afterwards, before the full tide of talk set in, and then there was so much conversation among the elders,—so much sly fun and open merriment among the young folks,—and so much eating to be done by all,—that it was no wonder the children grew weary of their play, and waited impatiently for their turn at the feast. It came at last, and was enjoyed most heartily by them; for there was a peculiar relish even to bread and butter when it graced the Thanksgiving table.

In the evening the little party was increased, to Jenny's great astonishment, by the arrival of Mr. Arthur Fielding, their young minister. What was still more surprising to Jenny, no one but herself seemed to wonder at all at his coming, but as Margaret looked particularly happy and contented, she concluded it must be all right. In the course of the evening all but a few of the oldest ones went into the great kitchen for a regular game of romp. They began with blind-man's-buff, and gradually subsided into quieter plays. Long before they finished, Mr. Fielding completely won Jenny's heart, by the enthusiasm with which he entered into the sport, and helped every one else to enjoy it. It was he who chose Carrie for judge when the forfeits were to be redeemed, and quietly brought out an easy chair for her to sit in, when he saw she looked weary. Jenny was very glad, when they went back to the parlor, to find herself lifted upon Mr. Fielding's knee, with Margaret on the sofa beside them.

"Mr. Fielding," said she, at last, "are you any relation to us; my cousin, or uncle, or anything?"

"I believe not, Jenny, said Mr. Fielding, very gravely, "don't you think it is a pity?"

"Well, then," persisted Jenny, "*what made you come to our Thanksgiving party?*"

Mr. Fielding looked at Margaret, and Margaret smiled a queer little smile, and blushed very red; and then he laughed very heartily, a great deal too much for a minister, Jenny thought,—at any rate she did not choose to sit there and be laughed at, so she slipped away to see Carrie, and left them alone together.

"You look very tired, my child," said Aunt Esther, as she helped the lame girl to put on her wrappings.

"I am tired," was the answer, "but this has been such a happy day. Every one has been so kind to me, and oh, mother, it is not such a dreadful thing to be lame, after all. I think I shall be more patient."

"Well, Jenny," said Mr. Newman, when they gathered again around their own fireside, "how was it about that wish-bone? Did it prove to be a good one?"

"Oh, father," said Jenny, "I was just going to tell you. I wished first for a new doll, because I broke my old china's head off, and I wanted one to carry to Thanksgiving. And then I wished that something would make Carrie happy, because last year she cried so bad, and said she wished she was dead. Then I wanted to wish something nice for Margaret, because she always does nice things for other people, but I didn't know of anything she would like, so I just wished she would have what she wanted most of anything in all the world."

"Very good wishes, little one," said her father, "now did you get any of them?"

"Why, father," said Jenny, earnestly, "don't you think, when I went up stairs I found the *cunningest* doll, all dressed complete, in my new gaiter. And to-night I heard Carrie tell Aunt Esther that she had such a nice, happy time all day. And Margaret, did you get anything you wanted?"

Oddly enough, Margaret blushed again, and could not meet the eyes of the little questioner.

"I guess she did," said Mr. Newman, with a hearty laugh, "but she wont tell you about it to-night, so you needn't ask her."

"How red your cheeks are, Margaret," said Jenny, looking admiringly at her sister; "I wish they were that way all the time, you look so much prettier. I asked Mr. Fielding, to-night, when you was singing with Louise Elmer, if he didn't think you was a *great deal* the prettiest, and he said he believed he did. I think he is a real nice man, but I can't see what business he had to come to our Thanksgiving."

"There, Jenny, that will do," said her father, laughing more than ever. "So you really think all these pleasant things came of that wish-bone, do you?"

"Well, no, father," said Jenny, slowly, looking thoughtfully at her sister, "*I rather think it was Margaret.*"

FUN, FACT, AND FANCY.

A MAN's good fortune often turns his head; his bad fortune as often averts the heads of his friends.

THE farewell of some wives to their husbands every morning—*buy and buy.*

SPENDTHRIFTS economise in what they give, the charitable in what they spend.

EMERSON tells us that "the tongue should be a faithful teacher." Certainly the eye ought to be—it always has a pupil.

THE first of all virtues is innocence; the second is modesty; and neither departs without being quickly followed by the other.

A MATRON, lately being asked why she didn't learn the French language, replied that one tongue was sufficient for a woman.

ZEAL should be like fire, which is not only hot, but bright; a blind horse may be full of mettle, but he is ever and anon stumbling.

To converse with spirits—lay a five cent piece on a table in a grog shop, and they'll show themselves quicker than you can say "beans."

FAME is an undertaker that pays but little attention to the living, but bedizens the dead, furnishes out their funerals, and follows them to the grave.

EACH day brings its own duties, and carries them along with it; and they are as waves broken on the shore, many like them coming after, but none ever the same.

GRIEF humbles to the dust, but also exalts to the clouds; it shakes as with an ague, but also steadies like frost; it sickens the heart, but also heals its infirmities.

"JOHN, how I wish it was as much the fashion to trade in wives as to trade in horses!" "Why so, Dick?"—"I'd cheat somebody most shockingly before night."

To be idle and to be poor have always been reproaches; and, therefore, every man endeavors, with the utmost care, to hide his poverty from others, his idleness from himself.

"A PHYSICIAN stopped at the shop of a country apothecary, and inquired for a pharmacopœia.—"Sir," said the apprentice, "I know of no such farmer living about these parts."

THE record of life runs thus: Man creeps into childhood, bounds into youth, sobers into manhood, softens into age, totters into second childhood, and stumbles into the cradle prepared for him.

"IF I were mentioning that a domestic fowl entered my room by the window, how could I state the fact, and name the prevailing epidemic? By simply saying:—'In flew a hen, sir' (Influenza)?"

"No one would take you to be what you are," said an old-fashioned gentleman the other day to a dandy who had more hair than brains. "Why?" was immediately asked. "Because they can't see your ears."

A PHYSICIAN of Cincinnati, who had lost his morning's milk from the front area, recently put an emetic into the pitcher, and the next morning discovered a policeman a little distance from his house making his "returns!"

FISHER AMES, an eminent philosophic statesman of the early period of our history, once said that "a monarchy is a merchantman which sails well, but will sometimes strike on a rock and go to the bottom; while a republic is a raft which may never sink, *but then your feet are always in water!*"

AT best, life is not very long. A few more smiles, a few more tears, some pleasure, much pain, sunshine and songs, clouds and darkness, hasty greetings, abrupt farewells,—then our little play will close, and the injurer and the injured will pass away. Is it worth while to hate each other?

"MAMY, my love, do you remember the text this morning?"

"No, papa, I never can remember the text, I've such a bad memory."

"Mary," said her mother, "did you notice Susan Brown?"

"Oh, yes. What a fright! She had on her last year's bonnet done up, a pea green silk, a black lace mantilla, brown gaiters, an imitation Honiton collar, a lava bracelet, her old ear drops, and such a fan!"

A SCOTCH parson, in the Rump time, said in his prayer, "Laird, bless the Grand Council, the Parliament, and grant that they may all hang together." A country fellow said, "Amen" very loudly, adding, "I'm sure it's the prayer of all good people." "Friends," said the minister, "I don't mean as that fellow means. My prayer is that they may all hang together in accord and concord." "No matter what cord," replied the other, "so that it be but a strong one."

Corner for the Young.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker

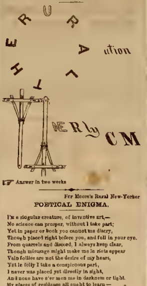
MISCELLANEOUS ENIGMA.

I AM composed of 17 letters.
My 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 16 is a season of the year.
My 5, 9, 10, 11, 17 is found in the earth.
My 4, 1, 3, 1 is an adjective.
My 6, 2, 14, 15, 16 is a sweet concrete substance.
My 12, 7, 11, 9 is used by a surgeon.
My whole is the name of one of the ablest and most accomplished scholars this country has produced.

Rochester, N. Y., 1861. C. H. AMES.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

ILLUSTRATED REBUS.



☞ Answer in two weeks.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker

POETICAL ENIGMA.

I'm a singular creature, of inventive art,—
No science can prosper, without I take part;
Yet in paper or book you cannot me descry,
Though placed right before you, and full in your eye.
From quarrels and discord, I always keep clear,
Though misusage might make me in riots appear.
Vain follies are not the desire of my heart,
Yet in folly I take a conspicuous part,
I never was placed yet directly in sight,
And none have e'er seen me in darkness or light.
My places of residence all ought to learn—
Although it would take many years to discern,
Now, I'd say to all those, who are seeking my face,
You will find me, at close of day, to my right place.

Great Bend, Jef. Co., N. Y., 1861. SOPHRONIA.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

For Moore's Rural New-Yorker

ALGEBRAICAL PROBLEM.

FIND two numbers, such that their product shall be equal to the difference of their squares, and the sum of their squares shall be equal to the difference of their cubes.

Le Roy, N. Y., 1861. D. S. THOMPSON.

☞ Answer in two weeks.

ANSWERS TO ENIGMAS, &c., IN No. 578.

Answer to Grammatical Enigma.—A rolling stone gathers no moss.

Answer to Illustrated Rebus.—Ought men to cypher (sigh for) aught which undermines their understandings or is incendiary to their passions.

Answer to Mathematical Problem.—

Distance between the two ships	395 6	rods.
" " Star and Ft. Johnson	467 7	"
" " " Ft. Moultrie	743 5	"
" " Brooklyn and "	590 5	"
" " " Ft. Johnson	634 9	"

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